SUNDAY
March 8, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
34 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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OLD GUARD DOWN

Balen sets the tone in Nepal

As his party heads for a landslide win, rapper-turned-politician defeats former Prime Minister Oli on his home turf

WORLD» PAGE 16

An Iranian philosopher who seeks vengeance

PROFILES » PAGE 24

Lakshya gets past Lai, meets Lin in the final

SPORT » PAGE 18

India looks to retain T20 World Cup crown

SPORT » PAGE 17

Iran vows not to attack neighbours

Will attack them only if triggered, says Iranian President; Trump threatens to intensify strikes

A videograb shows smoke rising from the Dubai International Airport in the UAE on Saturday during attacks from Iran. AFP

Stanly Johny
CHENNAI

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that Tehran would no longer target its neighbouring countries in West Asia unless attacks originated from their territory. However, he vowed that Iran would not surrender in its war against the United States and Israel, even as U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Iran was "being beaten to hell" while threatening to intensify strikes.

As the war entered its eighth day, Israel and the U.S. carried out strikes across the Islamic Republic, particularly targeting the country's Air Force, while Tehran fired at least eight missile salvos at Israel since midnight. Several Arab countries were targeted in drone and missile attacks despite Mr. Pezeshkian's remarks.

"Iran has never planned, nor will ever plan, an invasion of any neighbour," Mr. Pezeshkian said in a televised address. "We have repeatedly said that they are our brothers. We aim to work hand-in-hand with our dear brothers and neighbours in the region to establish lasting peace and stability," he noted.

He said that Tehran's interim leadership council has decided that neighbouring countries would not be targeted "unless those countries launch an attack on us," state media reported.

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Army headquarters said that Tehran respects the sovereignty of neighbouring countries and has not carried out any act of aggression against them. "However, all military bases and interests belonging to the criminal U.S. and the Israeli regime on land, at sea, and in air across the region will be considered legitimate targets of powerful strikes by Iran's Armed Forces," it added.

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RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES13 & 16

Amid West Asia crisis, cooking gas prices raised

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Domestic cooking gas prices were hiked by ₹60 per cylinder on Saturday, while that of commercial cylinders went up ₹114.50, prompting Opposition parties to attack the Centre. Beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – over 10 crore households that received LPG connections since 2016 – will also bear the ₹60 increase. After accounting for the ₹300 subsidy for up to 12 refills annually, they will pay ₹613 for a 14.2-kg cylinder.

Officials attributed the increases to a sharp rise in global prices after a widening conflict in West Asia disrupted tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz – a crucial route used by Gulf producers to export oil and gas. While government sources said the price rise would translate to only about 20 paise per person per day, and asserted that there would be no immediate hike in petrol or diesel prices, Opposition accused the Centre of burdening households grappling with inflation.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13

'Centre considering Navy escort for stranded ships'

M. Kalyanaraman
Saptaparno Ghosh

With an estimated 10% of oil tankers stranded in the Persian Gulf amid the West Asian crisis being Indian-flagged, the Union government is considering deploying Navy ships to escort vessels in the Persian Gulf, said a senior government official.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 21

NEARBY

Debt burden within limits: CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah rejected the charge that the State was borrowing excessively and said the debt burden was within the limits prescribed by Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act. » PAGE 11

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 10
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Shivakumar to leave for Delhi today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Amid speculation over a possible leadership change after the presentation of the State Budget for 2026-27, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will leave for New Delhi on Sunday along with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

After participating in the foundation-laying ceremony for various development programmes in Chittapur in Kalaburagi, Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Kharge are expected to depart for Delhi on a special flight from Kalaburagi airport, according to the tour programme of the KPCC president. Mr. Shivakumar will stay in Delhi on Sunday and is expected to meet the top leadership of the Congress on Monday and discuss political developments of the State.

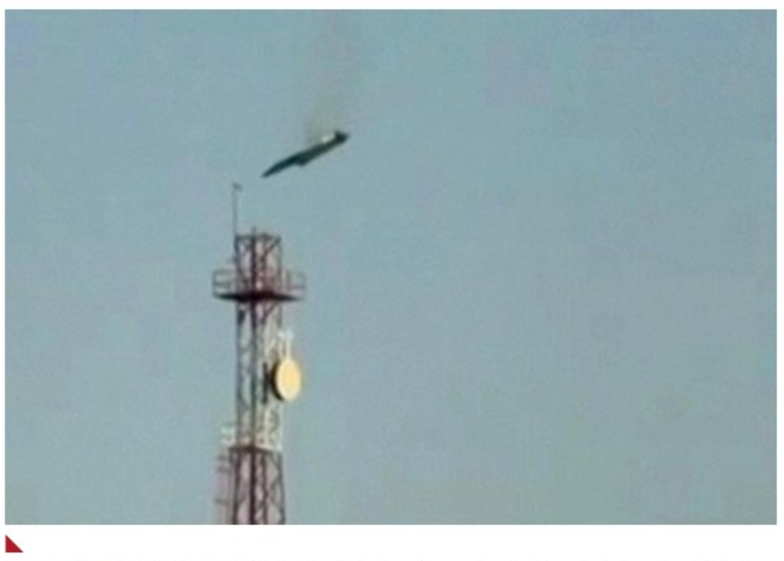
A few loyal legislators of the KPCC chief recently held a dinner meeting and expressed their intention to travel to Delhi to urge the party high command to elevate Mr. Shivakumar to the post of Chief Minister after the Budget session of the legislature. The session is scheduled to conclude on March 27.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, speaking in Mysuru, reiterated that he would continue in office as long as the party high command wanted him to.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11

Shattered power: Destroyed buildings inside the compound of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran. AFP

War's echo: Smoke rises over Manama, Bahrain, after explosions were heard across the city on February 28. REUTERS



Downed eagle: A U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jet crashes in Kuwait during the third day of Iranian strikes targeting countries hosting U.S. military bases, on March 2. AFP

Capital under fire: Smoke rises over Tehran after a U.S.- Israel strike on March 3. Washington warned it was 'too late' for talks as Iran intensified attacks on economic targets and U.S. missions across West Asia. AFP

A week of fire

Across borders, the war's widening arc — from oil ports to crowded cities — engulfs ordinary lives; missiles, reprisals and spiralling escalation leave civilians bearing the cost

Missiles tore open the West Asian sky on February 28 as the United States and Israel launched a sweeping assault on Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top Generals in what Washington said was a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear ambitions. Satellite images showed the wreckage of the leader's compound in Tehran, where smoke curled above shattered roofs.

Within hours, grief spilled onto the streets. Mourners waving Iranian flags gathered in vigil while symbolic funerals echoed from Tehran to Baghdad, where crowds chanted against Washington and Tel Aviv.

Iran's retaliation followed swiftly. Missiles streaked toward Israel and U.S. bases across the Gulf. Explosions rattled Bahrain, debris from intercepted drones near oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia halted services, industrial zones in the United Arab Emirates were targeted, and the conflict's tremors reached Lebanon, home to Iran-backed Hezbollah militia. Amid the spiralling escalation – from verbal taunts by leaders, pummelling of air strikes to attacks by non-state actors, civilians bore the quiet cost.

In Jerusalem, mourners buried three siblings killed by Iranian fire. In Iran's Minab, graves were dug after a strike on a girls' school reported to have killed over 150, most of them children. The fighting has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 200 in Lebanon, and 11 in Israel, according to officials in those countries.

The war's shockwaves are also rippling through global markets, threatening economic turmoil that could spill crises far beyond the battlefield.

(Text by Mohammed Hidhayat)

Fallen leader: Mourners carry a coffin during a symbolic funeral procession for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Najaf, Iraq, following his reported death in Israeli and U.S. air strikes. REUTERS

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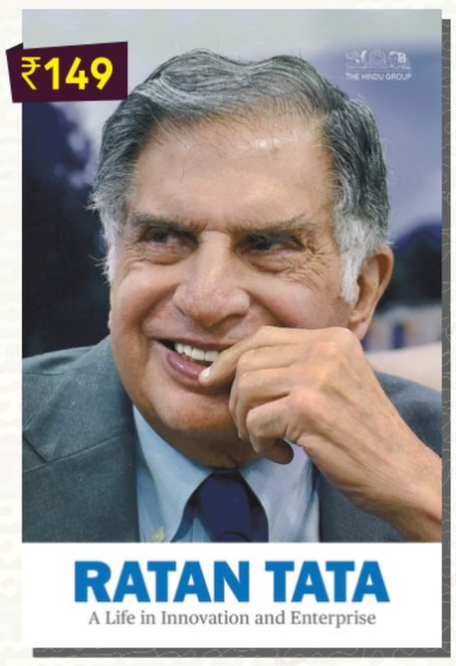
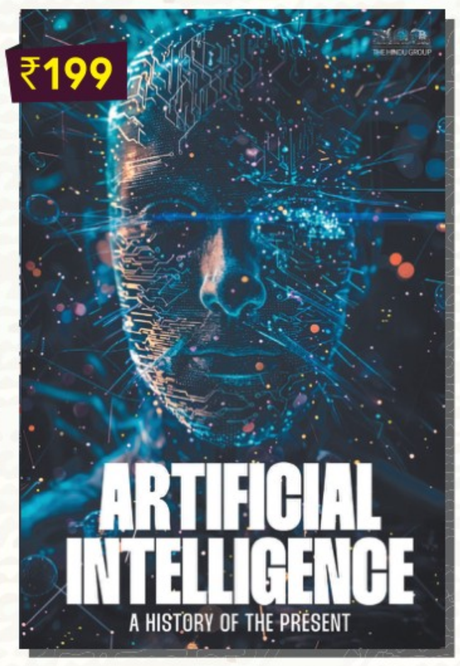
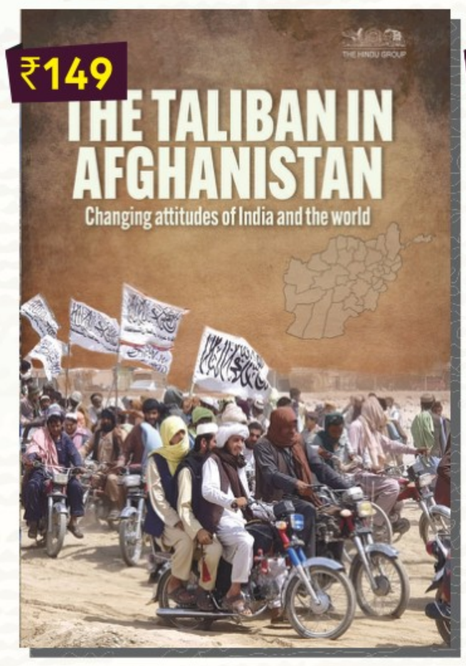
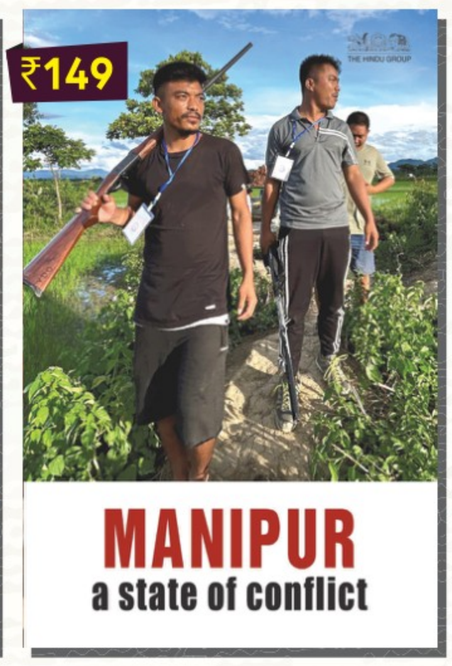
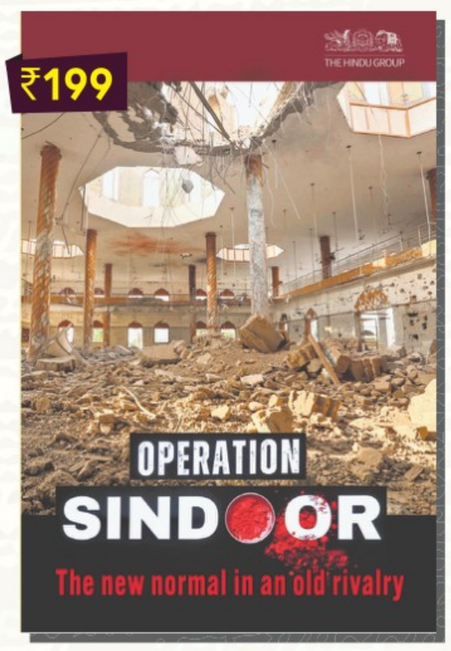








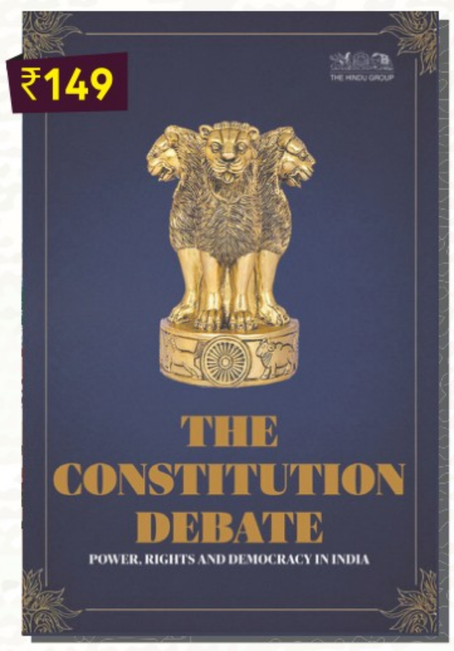


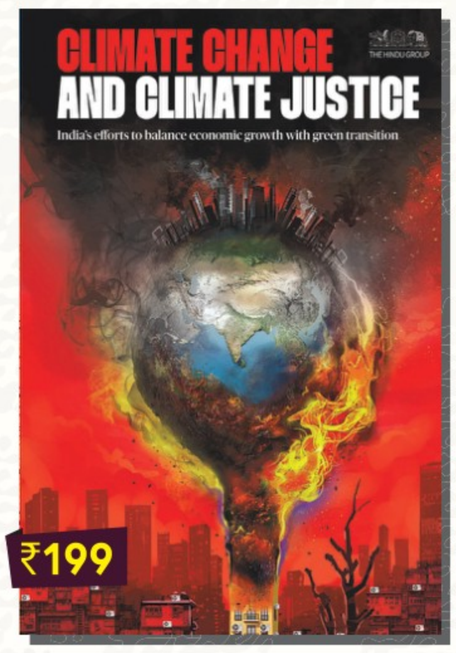
17 Books

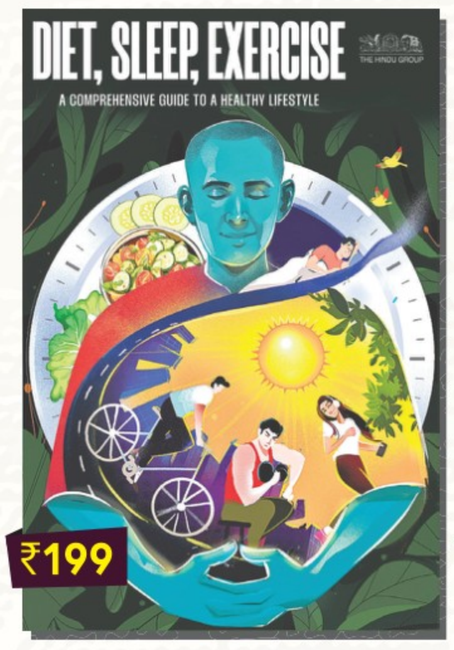
Epic subjects

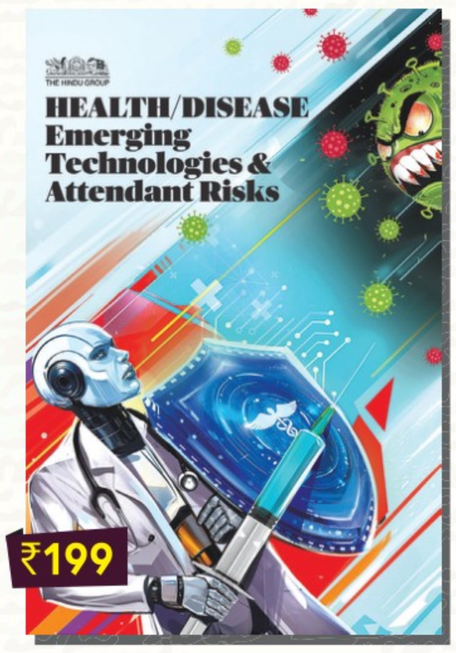
Great prices

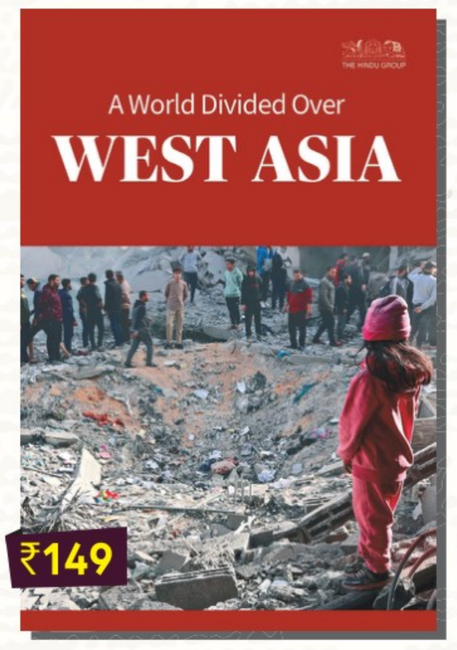
One massive sale

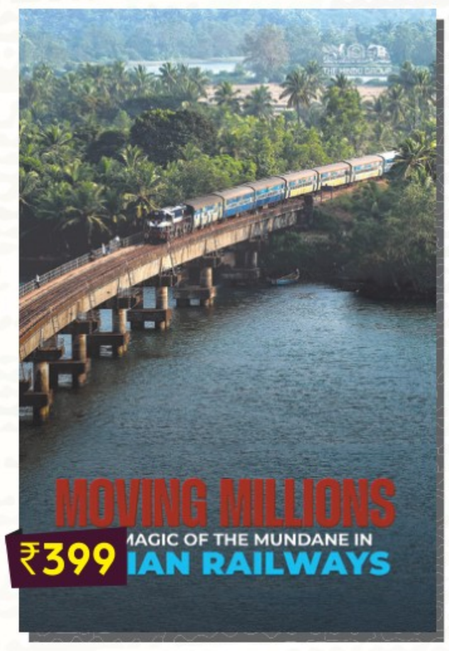


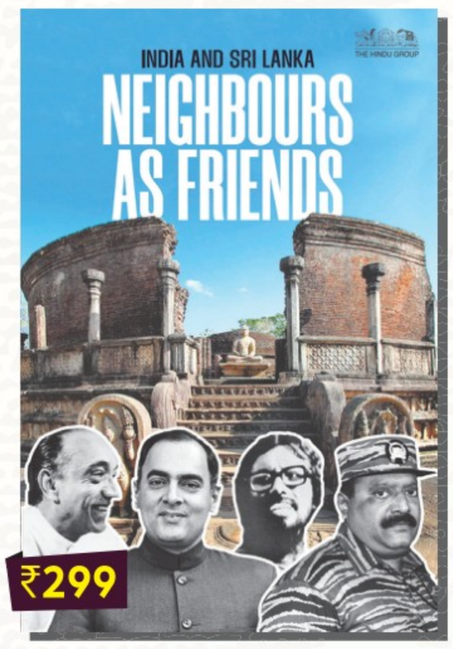


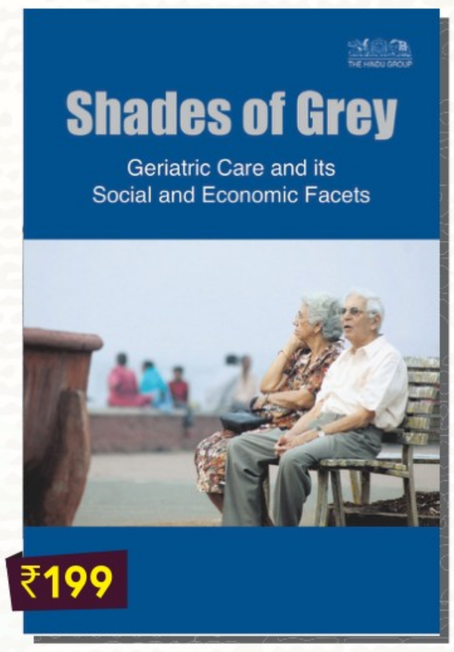


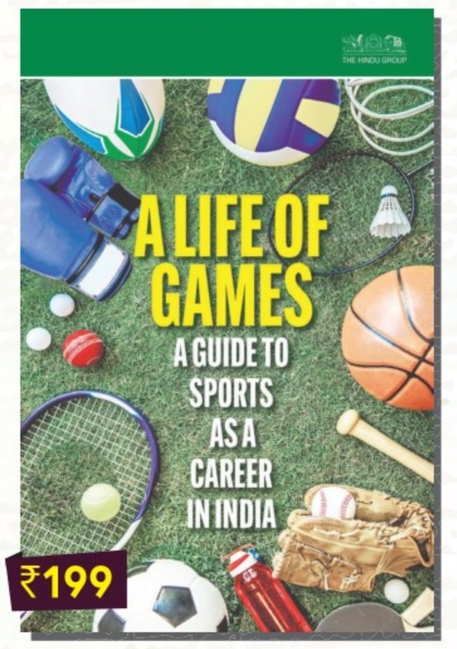


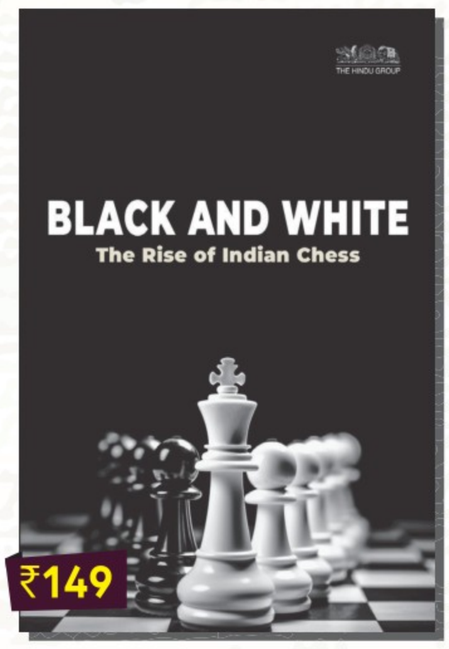












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Study: Colorectal cancer diagnosed at advanced stage in many cases

Doctors urge people not to ignore warning signs such as persistent abdominal pain, changes in bowel habits, unexplained weight loss or prolonged fatigue; early detection, they stress, remains the most effective way to prevent deaths

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A new study from the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) in Bengaluru has found that a majority of colorectal cancer patients in India are diagnosed only after the disease has progressed to advanced stages, underscoring the need for wider screening and greater public awareness.

The study, led by Pavan Sugoor from the institute's Department of Surgical Oncology, analysed 831 colorectal cancer patients treated at the hospital between January 2021 and February 2025.

The findings show that 58% of patients were diagnosed in Stage III, while 25.5% had already reached Stage IV by the time they sought treatment. The average age of patients was 52.7 years, and nearly 30% were younger than 45, indicating a concerning rise in early-onset colorectal cancer in India.

The findings show that 58% of patients were diagnosed in Stage III, while 25.5% had already reached Stage IV by the time they sought treatment. FILE PHOTO

Experts attribute the rise in cases partly to changing lifestyles, including sedentary habits, dietary shifts, rising obesity and diabetes, as well as limited awareness of early symptoms and screening

Nationwide trend

Dr. Sugoor said the data reflects a growing trend observed by clinicians across the country. "The study shows that a large proportion of colorectal cancer patients in India present to hospitals at an advanced stage of the disease. Delayed diagnosis significantly affects treatment outcomes and highlights the need for improved screening and awareness," he said.

Published in the *South Asian Journal of Cancer* on February 26, 2026, the study, titled 'Clinicopathological and Demographic Spectrum of Colorectal Cancer', also identified distinct patterns among Indian patients.

Rectal cancers accounted for 64% of cases, while 36% originated in the colon. The most common tumour type was moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma, comprising nearly 78.6% of cases.

The researchers also observed higher proportions of aggressive tumour subtypes, including mucinous cancers (11.4%) and signet-ring cell cancers (7.6%), both associated with poorer outcomes.

"These aggressive histological sub-types appear more frequently in our patient population than in many higher-income countries, which may partly relate to the younger age at which patients are developing colorectal cancer," Dr. Sugoor explained.

The study also noted gender-related differences. Women were more likely to be diagnosed at a higher tumour stage, and illiteracy rates were higher among female patients – factors that may contribute to delay in seeking medical care.

Globally, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer, accounting for nearly 10% of the overall cancer burden. Although historically less common in India than in Western countries, doctors say incidence patterns are gradually changing.

Global data

A recent State of Screening Study 2026 by the Colorectal Cancer Alliance found that colorectal cancer is now the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among adults under 50 in the United States. The report also highlighted significant awareness gaps: more than half of adults do not know the disease is largely preventable, and many are unaware that screening tests can even be done at home, Dr. Sugoor said.

Another concerning finding is that 45% of adults under 45 reported their symptoms were dismissed by a physician – a trend, doctors say, is increasingly being observed in India as well.

Lifestyle factors

Experts attribute the rise in cases partly to changing lifestyles, including sedentary habits, dietary shifts, rising obesity and diabetes, as well as limited awareness of early symptoms and screening.

The study also pointed to a major gap in preventive care. In India, fewer than 10% of people eligible for colorectal cancer screening actually undergo testing, allowing many cancers to remain undetected until they are advanced.

With March observed globally as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, doctors are urging people not to ignore warning signs such as persistent abdominal pain, changes in bowel habits, blood in the stool, unexplained weight loss or prolonged fatigue. Early detection, they stressed, remains the most effective way to prevent deaths.

HC upholds CBSE's decision to debar student for two years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the decision of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to cancel all the examinations of a class 12 student, who carried a mobile phone inside the examination hall in Bengaluru in February 2025, and also debarring him from taking exams in all subjects even in the next year.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order while allowing an appeal filed by the CBSE against the August 23, 2025, judgment of a single judge, who had directed the CBSE to announce the student's result while quashing the penalty of debarring the student from taking exams for two academic years.

While the CBSE had passed the order in May 2025 disqualifying the student for taking exams for two academic years under cateogry-3 of unfair means in exams, he was declared successful in the JEE-Advanced Examination in June 2025. Interestingly, he had scored 92% in his class 10 CBSE exams.

Inverdently carried

He had carried the mobile phone on the first day of exams – for the Physical Education paper – and the invigilator had noticed the mobile phone in his pocket after about 25 minutes of commencement of exams. The invigilator seized the phone. The student had claimed that he entered the exam hall with a mobile phone inadvertently, as he came late to the exam centre.

The single judge had set aside the penalty imposed on him while noticing that the enquiry conducted by a committee constituted by the CBSE found that the mobile phone neither contained any copying material nor had the student copied anything from the mobile phone.

The single judge treated the violation by the student as category-1 unfair means, which gives 'benefit of doubt' to a student in case of not using any copying material (including mobile phone) despite carrying a phone, and no evidence to establish foul intent.

Penalty

However, the bench found that the penalty imposed by the CBSE was strictly as per the guidelines on different categories of unfair means and penalties, and these guidelines were communicated to all the students, including through their admission cards, which specifically states that mobile phone is not allowed inside the exam hall.

When a penalty is implemented after being ratified by a committee of experts, a court cannot neither substitute its opinion with that of the expert body nor dilute the penalty by exercising its power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, the bench said while setting aside the relief granted to the student by the single judge.

Open Day

Visitors observing scientific experiments at the Open Day at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Airbus tech centre in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurated the Airbus Technology Centre at Whitefield in Bengaluru on Friday, a hub for promoting engineering, digital transformation, customer services, and procurement.

Speaking after the inauguration, Mr. Shivakumar said, "On February 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Airbus H125 helicopter manufacturing unit at Vemagal, and now Karnataka has added yet another feather to its cap in the aerospace sector with this centre".

He called it "a celebration of the 17-year relationship between Bengaluru and Airbus".

He said Karnataka was the first State in the country to formulate a policy for the aerospace sector, back in 2013. "The Aerospace and Defence Policy for 2026-27 will take this to the next level," he noted.

"An Aerospace Park has been developed over 2,000 acres in Devanahalli, making it one of the most significant aerospace industrial parks in the world. Aerospace Special Economic Zones are being established in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chamarajanagar," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAR. 08		
RISE	06:31	SET 18:29
RISE	22:35	SET 09:29
MONDAY, MAR. 09		
RISE	06:31	SET 18:29
RISE	23:27	SET 10:11
TUESDAY, MAR. 10		
RISE	06:30	SET 18:29
RISE	00:00	SET 10:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/46 Dt: 02.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of work	Approx. value
Provision of second transformer bay at Yelahanka-Talli Saidasahu. **Period of Completion:** 6 Months	₹1,55,61,104.00/-

Last date and time for submission of tender: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 24.03.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE
Email ID :- seec2chandikhole@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No. ACE, EC-II 12 of 2025-26 (On-line)

1.	Name of Work	:	Work list attached in the Technical Bid Document
2.	Total No. of Package	:	20 nos.Individual Package
3.	Tender Cost of Packages varies from	:	Rs.196.45 Lakhs to Rs.715.33 Lakhs.
4.	Cost of Bid Document	:	Rs.10,000/- (On-line payment)
5.	Bid Security varies from	:	Rs.1,96,500/- to Rs.7,15,400/-
6.	Class of Contractor	:	"B" & "A "Class for Sl No 1 to 19 & A & Special Class for Sl No.20 (Work list attached in the Bid Document)
7.	Period of Completion	:	06 (Six) Calendar Months for Sl. No. 1 to 19 & 12 (Twelve) Calendar Month for Sl. No. 20
8.	Other details are as follows.		

Procurement Officer	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
	From	To	
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole	11/03/2026 at 10 AM	25/03/2026 up to 5.00 PM	26/03/2026 at 11.30 AM

9. e-mail Id : **seec2chandikhole@gmail.com** .
10. Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** .
11. Any corrigendum/addendum/cancellation of tender to the above notice if any can be seen from the above website.

Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole.
32001/169/2526
OIPR-32001/32322/1/25-26/0002

PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka has accorded Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Construction Project 'Narayana Hospital- BG Road' by M/s Narayana Hrudayalaya Limited at Sy. No. 81/1 , 82/1 in Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore, South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District-560102, Karnataka (File No.: SEIAA 328 CON 2025) dated 04.02.2026 under the provision of EIA Notification, 14th September 2006.

Copy of the Clearance Letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the PARIVESH portal.

Date: 08/03/2026 (Authorized Signatory)

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

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DEMAND NOTICE
FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. as amended
RC/317/2025 01.08.2025
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Versus
SRI DURGA MINERALS

In the Matter of:
(CH-1) Union Bank Of India (Erstwhile Andhra Bank) Dasarahalli Branch, No.1478, DRLS Plaza, Ground Floor, Tumkur Road, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 057. Represented By Branch Manager.
...Applicant Bank/certificate Holder
VS
To,
(CD-1)Sri. Dhurga Minerals No.52, 3rd Cross, Iyengar Layout Ganapathinagar, Peenya 3rd Phase, Bangalore-560 058. Rep. By Its Partners Shivasharanappa. Venkatesh Siddana Gouda.
(CD-2) Shivasharanappa S/o. Eshwarappa No.20/20-a, Venkateshwara Nilaya, Bhagyalakshmi Temple Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560058.
(CD-3) Venkatesh S/o. Eshwarappa, No.20/20-a, Venkateshwara Nilaya, Bhagyalakshmi Temple Road Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560058.
(CD-4) Siddana Gowda S/o. Eshwarappa, No.20/20-A, Venkateshwara Nilaya, Bhagyalakshmi Temple Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560058.
Deffendants/Certificate Debtors

CH Name	Int. Type/Mode	Effective Date	Order Date	Int Rate	Type of A/c	RC Amount (Rs.)
UNION BANK OF INDIA	Simple Interest	07.03.2022	31.01.2024	13.90% p.a plus overdue interest @ 2%p.a	-	494246.77
				11.90% p.a plus overdue interest @ 2%p.a	-	4447471
				Total		4941717.77

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT 1)** in **OA/491/2022** an amount of **Rs.49,41,717.77(Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Forty One Thousands Seven Hundred Seventeen and Paisa Seventy Seven Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest from **w.e.f. 07.03.2022** till realization and costs of **Rs.92260 (Rupees Ninety Two Thousands Two Hundred Sixty Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

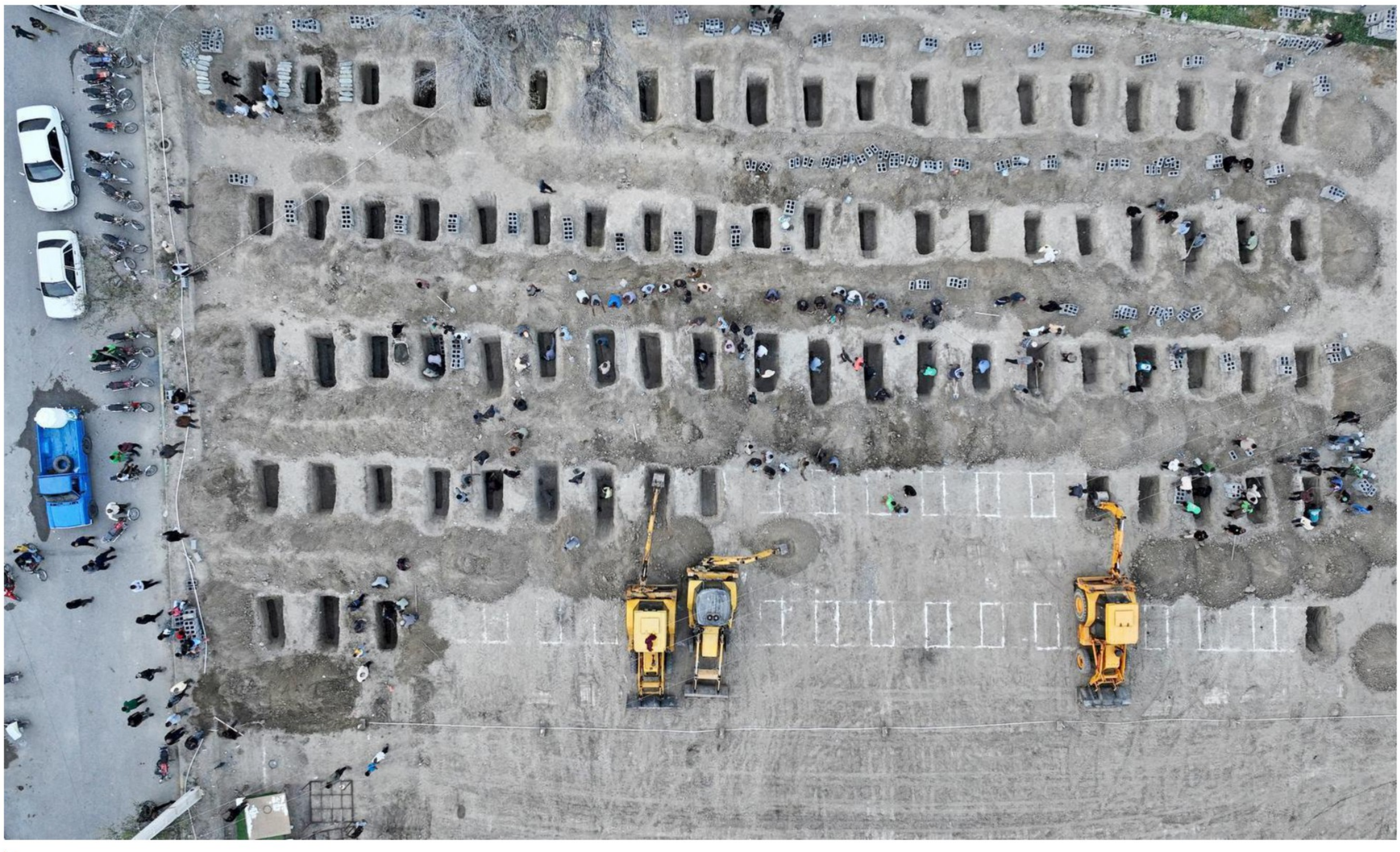
CD Name	Loan Type	Int Type/ Mode	Effective Date	Order Date	Liability Type	Int. Rate	RC Amount (Rs)
(CD-1) Sri Durga Minerals (CD-2) Shiva sharanappa (CD-3) Venkatesh (CD-4) Siddanna Gowda	-	Simple Interest	07.03.2022	31.01.2024	-	13.90% p.a plus overdue interest @ 2%p.a	494246.77
						11.90% p.a plus overdue interest @ 2%p.a	4447471
						Total	494717.77

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of receipt of this notice
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **01.08.2025**
Recovery Officer-I

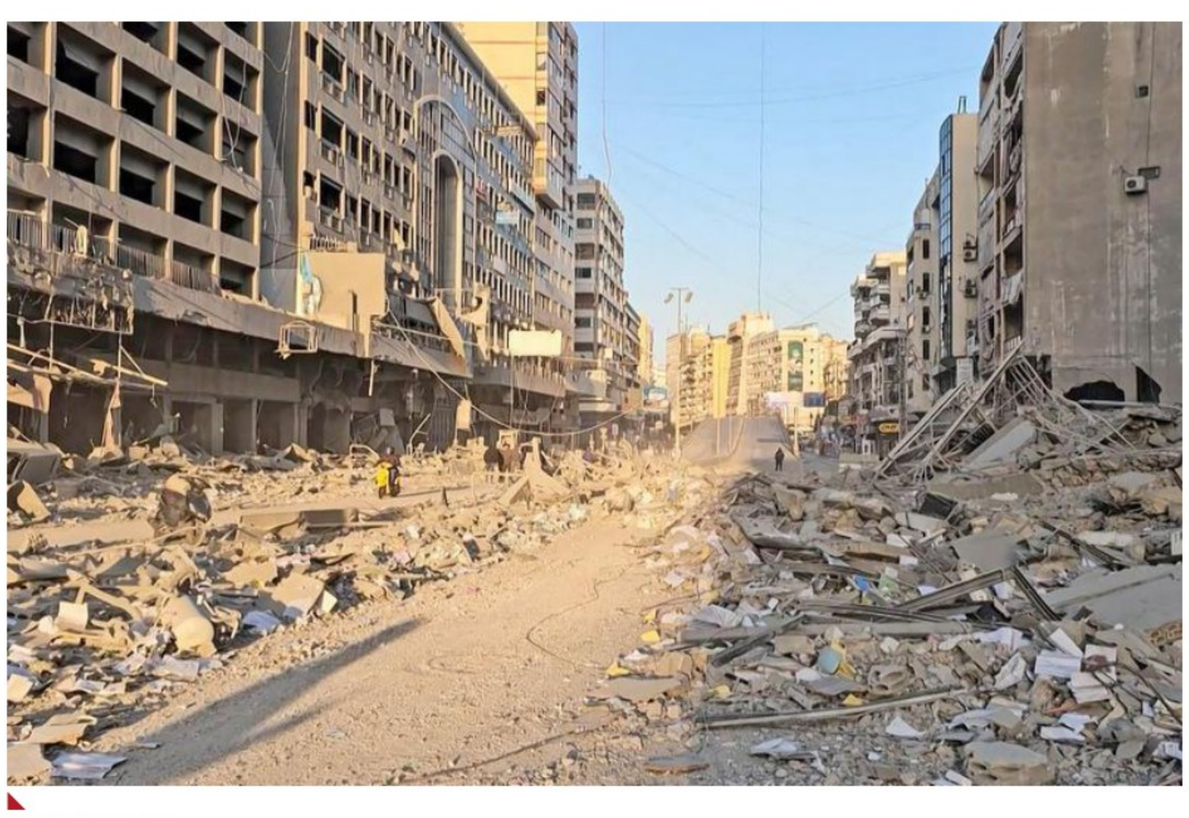
Skies of war: Smoke rises over buildings in Doha, Qatar, on March 5 after explosions were heard hours after authorities began evacuating residents living near the U.S. embassy. AFP

Innocence nearby: Children gather around an unexploded missile in an open field on the outskirts of Qamishli, eastern Syria, on March 5. AFP

City in smoke: Smoke billows over Beirut's southern suburbs after reported Israeli strikes, seen from Baabda, Lebanon, on March 6. REUTERS



Rows of loss: Graves are being prepared for victims after a strike hit a girls' primary school in Minab, Iran, killing about 150 people and injuring nearly 100. REUTERS



Streets of sorrow: A road strewn with rubble and debris after overnight Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, on March 6. AFP

Rescue at sea: Sailors being rescued after the Iranian ship *IRIS Dena* sank off Galle, Sri Lanka, following a U.S. submarine attack. AP

State has fostered cybersecurity innovation: Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has one of the most secure digital ecosystems in the world, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said, while inaugurating the third edition of the CI-DECODE Cybercrime Investigation Summit in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The summit was organised by the Criminal Investigation Department and the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR).

The Minister said Karnataka was a global brand, with the world looking at Bengaluru as a hub of innovation and technology. He said that the State government has taken stringent measures to curb cybercrime by establishing specialised cybercrime units equipped with advanced skills, training and technology to investigate cyber attacks and collect digital evidence. He said the government has established 43 Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police stations across all districts and major cities in the State to enhance cybersecurity for citizens.

Mr. Parameshwara said the State has created a favourable ecosystem for cybersecurity innovation by collaborating with companies specialising in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity compliance and risk management. He emphasised that partnerships with the private sector and international organisations are essential to enhance digital safety. Discussions on issues such as dark web activities, cryptocurrency tracking, financial fraud prevention and strengthening digital forensic laboratories were particularly relevant in the current scenario, he said. The Minister added that the CCITR, since its inception, has trained more than 62,000 personnel.

Pointing out that cybercrime was not limited by geography, he stressed the need to tackle emerging threats such as financial frauds, cryptocurrency-based crimes, dark web drug networks and data breaches. The summit brought together over 150 senior police officers from Karnataka and about 60 officers from across India.

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Applicants may visit the official websites of SPA, Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada for Course Details
Selection Criteria for selection of candidates shall be based on:
(i) Performance in Qualifying Examination; (ii) Valid GATE/CEED/UGC-NET Score, as applicable; (iii) Physical Interaction, and (iv) Work Experience

Important Dates

Date of opening of online applications and opening of Payment Link	2nd March, 2026
Date of closing of applications	22nd March, 2026
Display of list of eligible applicants for Interaction	24th March, 2026
Physical Interaction (may include interviews, portfolio assessment, Statement of Purpose at SPA Delhi	16th April, 2026 – 21st April, 2026
Announcement of Result / Display of the Rank List	28th April, 2026
Seat Allotment and Various Rounds of Counseling	28th April, 2026 – 23rd May, 2026
SPECIAL ROUND of Counseling	03rd June, 2026 – 10th July, 2026
Display of Information regarding SPOT ROUND Counseling (if any)	20th July, 2026
Physical Document Verification (in person at allotted institutions) and Commencement of Classes.	as per dates displayed by the respective Institutions on their Websites

General Instructions

1. Application fee is ₹ 3,500/- (Non-refundable), for Indian Nationals. For reserved categories SC, ST, EWS and PwD categories, the application fee is ₹ 1,750/- (Non-refundable).
2. The Foreign Nationals/ NRI/ PIO/OCI seeking admission in any of the Postgraduate Courses shall apply separately through DASA 2026 portal.
3. Candidate can exercise **any number of choices based on eligibility for the course applied for in any of the Institutions.**
4. Admission to Post Graduate Degree Courses against Kashmiri Migrant Reserved Seats as per the rules over and above the total number of PG seats of the respective Institute.
5. 5% seats are reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities on horizontal basis. These shall be adjusted against the respective reservations for OG, SC, ST, EWS and OBC (NCL) Categories as per provision for PwD reservations, Government of India.
6. Institutions reserve the right to give admissions up to 10% of the intake as supernumerary seats.
7. GATE and CEED qualified candidates having valid Score Card shall be eligible for the scholarship.
8. All dates mentioned are subject to change.
9. Candidates in final year may submit marksheet / transcript/ grade sheet till the pre-final year. In such cases, all admissions shall be provisional subject to the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria after receiving the final result in the qualifying examination.
10. Sponsored candidates from Government organizations, quasi-Government organizations, PSUs should apply through proper channel and the Selection Criteria for such candidates MAY BE relaxed as decided by the Selection Committee considering the suitability of the candidate on case-to-case basis. Such candidates shall apply separately through the websites of respective Institutions.
11. For further details visit https://jaappg.admissions.nic.in/ and for any clarifications, contact: jaappg2026@spa.ac.in .

Registrar, SPA, Delhi
JAAP PG 2026, Host Institution

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Share of women-led start-ups in ELEVATE sees steady rise

The percentage of women-led start-ups in the programme has more than doubled since its launch in 2017; in 2025, the share of women start-up founders rose to 43% from 16.96% in 2017

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

In an encouraging and refreshing trend, the number of women-led start-ups among the winners of ELEVATE, the Karnataka government's flagship start-up support and grant programme, has been steadily rising year after year. The percentage of women-led start-ups in the programme has more than doubled since the launch of the programme in 2017.

According to data from the IT-BT Department, among 103 winners in 2025 in the general category, 44 are women-led enterprises, taking the share of women start-up founders in the programme close to 43%. In 2017, this stood at 16.96% with only 19 women-led startups among 112 winners. By 2023, the share of women entrepreneurs in the programme rose to 37% out of 99 winners and in 2024 it stood at 42%.

Nivedha R.M., a startup founder who was part of the first batch of ELEVATE at the felicitation ceremony. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Shattering stereotypes
The list of women entrepreneurs in the programme shows a growing tilt towards deep-tech. Businesses span across sectors from healthtech, biotech, robotics and hardware, IT and SaaS, consumer products, edtech, climate tech, food tech, industrial tech, materials, manufacturing, agri tech, to R&D.

"Our start-up ecosystem is growing because of the kind of ecosystem that exists in Karnataka, and the increase in the share of women entrepreneurs has a lot to do with more women being inspired by the other women founders," said Manjula N., Secretary to the Government of Karnataka in the Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and Science & Technology.

She noted that it was inspiring to see young girls venturing into fields that were previously thought of as male bastions. "We see a lot of women founders in biotechnology, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and so on. There are increasing number of women graduates from STEM backgrounds and who have completed professional courses, making this shift happen," she said.

Support at early stage
TrashCon, a Bengaluru-based start-up that built a technology to segregate waste, was one of the winners of the first batch of ELEVATE. Nivedha R.M, founder and CEO of the company, said the programme proved crucial to her start-up's success by facilitating early-stage capital and support.

"I was only 22 then, not even out of college, and pretty much a one-woman army. I am from a middle-class background, and I was trying to solve the massive problem of waste by building a technology that never existed. ELEVATE was a turning point, because otherwise getting that sort of capital for a problem of this kind, when you do not have any background, would have been unimaginable," she said.

ELEVATE gives a one-time grant of a maximum of ₹50 lakh to every winner.

The department of Electronics, IT, and BT has introduced other programmes like We-Escalate, which offers six-month incubation/acceleration, including mentorship, workshops, and investment support for women-led startups in Biotech, AgriTech, and MedTech.

More in the offing
According to officials, the department is planning to introduce a women-led incubator in the coming days and is mulling whether a separate vertical could be carved out for women-led start-ups within ELEVATE.

"The separate vertical for women is still in the ideation stage. But it is one way we can encourage more women led-start-ups and bring in more women into the programme if they meet the minimum requirement to qualify. When we are 50% of the population, I think that should reflect everywhere," said Ms. Manjula.

Venture capitalist Ankita Vashistha, with some of the founders of her over 50 invested companies by women. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Women entrepreneurs face disparity in fundraising

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Venture capital remains deeply unequal in who it funds, indicating a gender-based funding gap, lamented Ankita Vashistha, founder and managing partner, Arise Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm operating out of Bengaluru and San Francisco.

Despite proven benefits of diversity, funding for women-only and underrepresented minority founder teams consistently fell below 2% of the total VC funds of $425 billion raised globally and $13 billion raised in India in 2025, she stated, quoting data from Arise Ventures' Diversity Report 2026 released in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Meanwhile, women co-founded Generative AI related ventures saw (over a period of 18 months until mid of calendar 2025) private funding to the tune of $25.2 billion globally, which is barely 10% of the total $258 billion global AI funding in 2025. "This is the gap we aim to close. To start with, impacting over 1 million women founders by 2030 through our investments, programmes, and platforms," said Ms. Vashistha, who also runs StrongHer, an early stage platform and fund exclusively for women in tech-driven startups.

She further said disparities are often happening even when multiple researches show that diverse teams do not just add perspective, they deliver measurable business gains.

"The funding gap is no longer a hidden issue, it is a clear reflection of how unequal access to opportunity still is. Women founders continue to build resilient, high-potential businesses, yet the share of capital reaching them remains disproportionately small," said Anisha Patnaik, founder, LexStart.

According to Somdutta Singh, CEO Assiduus, in an ecosystem where women still receive a disproportionately small share of funding, the role of certain funds like Arise Ventures become incredibly meaningful.

Half of the over 600 women entrepreneurs surveyed for this study revealed they have been facing biases right from pitching to fundraising solely due to their gender. "Women entrepreneurs who are trying to raise funds see this as the biggest roadblock on the way to growth," observed Ms. Vashishtha.

Once trapped in bonded labour, now stitching a livelihood of her own

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

While stitching a blouse that now earns her ₹200, Valli recalls a time not long ago when her days looked very different. Back then, she spent nearly 12 hours in sugarcane fields, bundling stalks under the sun and rain, without wages and little control over her life. It all began in 2018 when Valli and her husband, daily wage labourers then, wanted to build a house. They approached approached a person they knew in the village for a loan. In return, the couple agreed to work in sugarcane fields linked to him, assuming they would earn wages while gradually repaying the amount. Instead, the work tightened into bondage.

On the fields
For the next two years, the family moved between sugarcane fields across parts of Karnataka, and some districts in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Valli said she would wake up around 3 a.m., cook for the family, and then leave for the fields. From 6 a.m. until evening, her husband cut the sugarcane while she bundled the stalks that would later be loaded onto trucks. "They only gave money for provisions," Valli recalled. "Having one meal a day itself felt like a big thing."

Nomadic life
The family stayed in temporary shelters near the worksites, moving wherever the harvest took them. Their two children, a three-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter then, stayed close to the fields while the couple worked. "When we were going through those difficult times, I had only one thought in my mind – my children should not go through the same trauma."

Valli, who was a bonded labour for two years, now earns her livelihood through handicrafts.

They worked through rain and shine, barely realising they had slipped into bondage. Women workers were also expected to work during menstruation, without access to basic facilities.

Free at last

Things changed only when the family was rescued with the support of an organisation working with bonded labour survivors. Post-rescue, she became associated with Udayonmukha Trust, which supports survivors by providing skill training.

Valli joined a training programme in advanced tailoring. "We were taught many things, especially about building better livelihoods. They encouraged me to take up tailoring, something I had never imagined learning," Valli said.

Each blouse now earns her around ₹200, and with it, a sense of independence. "We are happy. We earn money for the work we do. We are not restricted or controlled by anyone," she said.

Her hopes now centre on her children's future. "I want them to have a good education. They should choose their own careers, their own future," she added.

Rehab help
After being recognised as a released bonded labourer, she received government assistance. She used it to complete construction of the house that she and her husband had originally borrowed money to build, that had eventually pushed them into bondage.

Having lived through bonded labour herself, Valli also hopes to help others who might still be in similar situations. She believes rescue alone is not enough. Survivors, she says, need financial, psychological and social support to rebuild their lives.

Power play

Show of strength: A karate demonstration by the 'Rani Chennamma Squad', a special team formed by women police personnel, at the special Women's Monthly Parade on the occasion of International Women's Day in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Women lead the way at this century-old school

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

In 1927, when Mahatma Gandhi visited a school in Basavanagudi in south Bengaluru, what followed became a small chapter in the history of India's freedom movement. The school, named Mahila Seva Samaja, was founded by Parvatiamma Chandrashekara Iyer in 1913 for the upliftment of women. Inspired by Gandhi's words, a large number of women at the school instantly donated their jewellery to the cause of the freedom struggle.

A testimony to Parvatiamma's dedication to women empowerment at a time when women's education was rare and even resisted, the school stands tall today, run by an all-women management.

Started as Seva Sadan in Chamrajpet to provide adult education and vocational training, the organisation then had a management council which comprised 10 women. "The legacy has continued, and the management has always been run only by women," said Revathi Suresh, secretary at MSS.

In 1916, Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV granted a plot of two acres for the institution, where the building construction was finished by 1920. Annie Besant did the inauguration, and the institution transformed into a school for girls.

Uplift of widows
"It started particularly with the aim of uplift of widows in society. They were given vocational training in tailoring, nursing, wood carving, and so on initially. Later, formal education was introduced," said Ms. Suresh, whose daughter is a former student at the school.

After Parvatiamma, Kamalamma Dasappa took over the administration of the school. Kamalamma, a mother of two, was widowed at 19. She, however, became one of the first people to translate Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Tryst of Destiny' to Kannada.

Sports in Kachche
K.S. Seethamma, who joined the Samaja as a science teacher initially, took over the reins in the 1960s. "It was during her time that the school shot up in academics," Ms. Suresh noted.

Sports have long held an important place in the activities of Mahila Seva Samaja, and during Seethamma's tenure, it was amply encouraged.

Mahila Seva Samaja Primary and High School in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"Women and girl students used to play badminton wearing *Kachche*. Around 75 years ago, they built a clubhouse for tennis, and the building still stands," Ms. Suresh said.

The school's main building won INTACH's heritage award in 2015.

Adapting to times
The building may be old, but the school has undergone a sea of change adapting itself to the times, Ms. Suresh noted.

Although it was started as a girls' school, the school later started admitting boys too, up to the 7th standard. Today, it is a co-ed school with 700 students in the State board and 650 in CBSE. Five years ago, an astronomy club club was started. Today, the school has introduced AI and robotics too, Ms. Suresh noted.

Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026: Rhythm and beat in the spotlight

Mridangam player Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman performing at the Mahindra Percussion Festival in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Anagha Maareesha
BENGALURU

Crowds gathered in big numbers at the Prestige Centre of Performing Arts in Bengaluru on Saturday evening for the Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026, in association with *The Hindu*. The two-day festival, now in its fourth edition, brings together musicians and artistes from different genres, showcasing the power of percussion. The Pulse Within is the theme of this edition of the festival.

The festival kicked off with Nada Pravaham – Circle of Sound – led by the legendary mridangam player Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman. Born in Tanjore in 1935, he is a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan as well as the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. Accompanying him were his disciples, tabla player Ishaan Ghosh, drummer Shravan Samsi, and vocalist N. Hariharan.

"Age is only a number," said the 91-year old, as he took the stage. "This is the 81st year of my career. Playing for Bengaluru is a red-letter day for us as the audience is so knowledgeable".

The performance was inspired by four Cs – confluence, creativity, camaraderie, and connection. With Hariharan providing the konnakol, the Carnatic-style improvised vocals, the performance was a tour de force between the four musicians. Free-flowing beats and rhythmic vocal improvisation were expertly led by Umayalpuram in a tight performance. Ishaan on the tabla was particularly impressive. The gig built up to a crescendo and concluded with a power-packed mrigandam act.

After a short break, it was time for Yatra by Mahesh Kale. Mahesh is an Indian-American classical vocalist, known for his expertise in Hindustani and devotional music. "Through my concert, I want to give you the sense of a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage across different parts of the country of different saints in different languages". Yatra used Maharashtra's devotional bhakti music to ask the question, what is rhythm in spiritual path? It used percussion and movement to find meaning of the infinite. The ensemble act had 12 musicians, helming instruments such as the tabla, a drum set, electric guitar, keyboard and harmonium, but with rhythm and beat taking the lead. The convergence of all instruments and vocals was a sensory thrilling experience. Day two will have acts such as Bikram Ghosh, and Women Who Drum, among others.

LPG hike: Cooking at home and eating out expected to cost more

Bangalore Hotels Association says the Centre has recently also stopped the discount on MRP for bulk buyers of commercial LPG cylinders

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Youth Congress workers protesting against the Centre over the hike in LPG prices, in Bengaluru, on Saturday. MURALI KUMAR K.

With the Union government on Saturday increasing the price of non-subsidised domestic LPG by ₹60 per cylinder and of commercial LPG by ₹130 per cylinder, following the conflict in West Asia affecting the prices of petroleum products, the prices in Bengaluru will go up to ₹915.50 (14.2 kg) and ₹1,981 (19 kg), respectively.

Earlier, the price of a domestic LPG per cylinder was ₹855.50, and commercial cylinders cost ₹1,866.50 in the city.

The steep hike is feared to affect both the domestic economy and the cost of eating out.

"For a middle-class family like ours, every rupee counts. The cost of milk, cooking oil, and other ingredients has already increased. Now, even basic cooking is becoming expensive," said Bhanupriya, a homemaker from Basavanagudi.

Daily wage earners and lower-income groups are feeling the pinch more acutely. "The cost of living in Bengaluru is rising sharply. House rent and school fees for children are high. Now, this hike in LPG cylinder prices by the Union government will impact us significantly," said Dilip Kumar, an autorickshaw driver, who urged the government to ease the burden on the poor. He added that the cost of auto LPG is also up, adding to their burden.

The Bangalore Hotels Association has stated that the Union government could have waited for a few more days instead of immediately increasing the price of LPG.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, P.C. Rao, president of the Bangalore Hotels Association, said, "The Union government used to give a discount in the range of ₹120 to ₹150 on the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for bulk buyers of commercial LPG cylinders. However, this discount has been stopped since March 1 this year. On Saturday, the price of commercial LPG was increased by ₹130. With this, the price of commercial LPG has increased by ₹280 in a week."

"In addition, the State government has increased the electricity tariff recently. And, the garbage collection tax has been fixed at ₹12 per kg. Therefore, the price of food and snacks in hotels and restaurants will inevitably increase. However, we will not immediately put this price burden on our customers. We will wait and watch for a week. But under unavoidable circumstances, we will hold a meeting with the members of the association and will take an appropriate decision," he said.

On Saturday, Congress workers held protests against the hike with placards and empty gas cylinders. Taking to X, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wrote, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly surrendered India's strategic autonomy by aligning blindly with the United States and disrupting India's long-standing energy partnerships with nations such as Russia and Iran, partners that historically ensured energy stability for our people."

Private school teacher booked for alleged corporal punishment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old homemaker and mother of a nine-year-old boy has filed a complaint against a teacher of a private school, alleging corporal punishment.

According to the complaint lodged by Pooja Pradeep, her son, studying in Class 2 at Nalanda Global Academy School, was allegedly assaulted by a teacher during school hours.

Mathematics lesson

The incident reportedly occurred on March 2. The complainant stated that the teacher questioned the child regarding a Mathematics lesson.

When he replied that he did not know the answer, the teacher allegedly slapped him on the cheeks, hit him with a wooden duster, and abused him verbally.

Legal action

Following the incident, the child reportedly returned home frightened and informed his parents. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against the teacher and have initiated legal action for corporal punishment and harassment of a minor.

Man arrested for robbing motorcyclist

HUBBALLI: The Kagwad police arrested a 35-year-old man for robbing a motorcyclist and recovered stolen cash. The accused, identified as Sagar Ashok Sanadi, intercepted Shanthu Chandrakanth Avalekar, near Shiraguppi village, on Friday, and robbed ₹2.81 lakh cash and his phone by threatening him with a weapon. The police nabbed Sanadi within four hours.

APPOINTMENT

புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் पाण्डिचेरी विश्वविद्यालय
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
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Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Administrative Building
R.V. Nagar, Kalapet, Puducherry – 605014

Advt.No: PU/RC/NT/2026/51 **Dated: 07-03-2026**

RECRUITMENT OF VARIOUS NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

Pondicherry University invites online Applications from the eligible candidates for the various Non-Teaching positions.

The details of posts, minimum eligibility criteria, experience, general instructions, terms & conditions etc., are available in the University website: **https://pondiunint.samarth.edu.in/index.php/site/login**

Important dates:

Opening date for online application: 10.03.2026

Closing date for submission of online application: 10.04.2026 at 5.00 P.M. (IST).

Last date for submission of Hard copy of application: 20.04.2026 at 5.00 P.M. (IST).

REGISTRAR

Safe Chits for Secured Life

MSIL Chits

Walk-in Interview for the post of Branch Manager

Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, is involved in chit fund business for the past 20 years. At present the Company has 27 Chit Fund branches across the State and in the near future is planning to open branches at all major cities.

Experienced retired professionals of prestigious Banks / Financial Institutions / Insurance Companies who are willing to work as **Branch Managers** in these Chit Fund branches on contract basis for a fixed tenure are invited for a Walk-in Interview.

Date of Walk-in Interview: 10th & 11th March, 2026
Time: 11.00 AM to 1.30 PM and 2.30 PM to 5.30 PM
Venue: Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL)
Head Office, # 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560 052

Trusted Government Company

Those who cannot attend the Walk-in Interview on the above mentioned dates can contact
Office of The Chief Administrative Officer,
Mysore Sales International Limited,
36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560 052.
or **e-mail to: cao.msilho@gmail.com**

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Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Geo-Fencing Based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application Implemented in 66 RTO Offices in Karnataka

1. To avoid discrepancies in issuing Fitness Certificates for Commercial (Transport) Vehicles, registered in the State of Karnataka the Transport Department has implemented a Geo-Fencing based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application in all 66 RTO offices across Karnataka
2. The objective of the mVahan Fitness Mobile Application is to bring greater transparency and accountability in the vehicle fitness certification process across all RTO offices in the State and this initiative will increase the confidence of vehicle owners and the general public
3. The new system is introduced in order to eliminate all probable loopholes and to ensure Fitness Certificates issued only after proper inspection of vehicles
4. In Karnataka, there are more than 30 lakh registered commercial (transport) vehicles and frequent complaints were received regarding lack of unified & transparency system in issue of Fitness Certificates.
5. In this regard, new mVahan Fitness Mobile Application developed by NIC has been implemented
6. With the aid of this application, Geo-Fencing technology ensures that vehicles are inspected only at designated inspection locations of the respective RTO offices
7. Vehicle inspection will take place as per the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act and Rules framed there under, only after the vehicle physically enters the designated inspection location.
8. During the inspection process, six photographs of the vehicle will be mandatorily captured and only after verification in the application, Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be issued
9. Apart from the designated inspection locations, there will be no provision to issue Fitness Certificates elsewhere
10. Registering Authorities have been instructed to conduct re-inspection of at least 20% of the vehicles that apply for fitness certificates.
11. The mVahan Fitness Mobile Application has been implemented in some states in the country and is currently being implemented in the State of Karnataka.
12. This system will help in reducing road accidents and enhance overall road safety.
13. The long-standing concerns and complaints regarding the vehicle fitness certification system will be effectively addressed through this initiative

Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Participating in the Department's Event

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

‘There is no repugnancy between provisions of RERA and KAOA’

Association of owners formed under KAOA is the right body to manage residential apartments, says the High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a ruling that clarifies the legal architecture for residential apartment governance, the High Court of Karnataka has said there is no repugnancy between the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972 (KAOA).

“The provisions of RERA will apply from the stage of development of projects till handing over of possession of the apartment to the owners and the undivided share of the project in favour of the association of owners formed under the provisions of KAOA. And the provisions of KAOA will be applicable once such handing over is complete and the association is formed in accordance with the law. In other words, the provisions under RERA are applicable to the pre-ownership stage, and the provisions under KAOA are applicable post-ownership,” the Court said.

The Court also reiterated that the association of owners formed under the KAOA is the right body to maintain and manage residential apartments, and not a cooperative society registered under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959. Justice M.G. Uma passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Sobha Limited, the developer of the 395-unit Sobha HRC Pristine apartment complex in Jakkur.

The developer had challenged the registration of Sobha HRC Pristine Apartment Owners Cooperative Society in September 2023 as a parallel body to Sobha HRC Pristine Owners’ Association, which was formed in June 2023 with most of the 323 owners, who had received sale deeds as members.

A group of 30 to 40 of them had registered the cooperative society under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies (KCS) Act, claiming grievances against the builder. The society had claimed that various provisions of RERA require registration of a society under the provisions of the KCS Act, while claiming that RERA, being a Central legislation, prevails over KAOA.

While rejecting society’s contention that the KCS Act could operate alongside KAOA in a purely residential project, the Court said that “the cooperative society is not a good vehicle to fulfil the objectives of maintaining, administering, managing the residential apartments or the common areas on behalf of the owners.” The Court also said that the society could not demonstrate any repugnancy between the provisions of the RERA and the KAOA.

Row over pet dog triggers scuffle at apartment complex

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A dispute over a pet dog led to a scuffle between residents of an apartment complex at Varthur in east Bengaluru, prompting police to register complaints from both sides and launch an investigation.

A resident, Tarun Arora, had taken his pet dog to a designated walking and exercise area, meant primarily for senior citizens.

Some elderly residents objected to the presence of the dog in the area. The situation reportedly escalated after the dog defecated at the spot, leading to a heated argument and an exchange of blows.

Tarun Arora lodged a complaint at Varthur Police Station alleging harassment. A woman, who was present at the spot, lodged a counter-complaint, accusing Arora of threatening her during the altercation. Police said CCTV camera footage shows an argument between the two parties and a group of residents allegedly confronting Arora, and knocking his phone from his hand.

High Court allows college to end services of faculty due to closure of course

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the faculty in an engineering college cannot claim the right to remain in service till the age of superannuation once the unaided department, in which they worked, has been validly closed and posts are abolished, stated the High Court of Karnataka.

A division bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju made these observations while allowing an appeal filed by Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan.

However, the bench directed the college to pay ₹40 lakh each as financial assistance to the the faculty members taking note that they had worked for a long time in the college, and them losing their job before the age of superannuation due to closure of the department.

The college had appealed against a single judge’s December 2023 direction to continuing the services of the two professors till they attain superannuation age of 65 years as per regulations of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) despite winding up the Automobile Engineering Department.

The single judge had passed the order in favour of M.K Ravishankar and K.P. Ravikumar, who were as professors in the department since 1997 and 2005, respectively.

The bench noted that the college decided to close the department due to decline in number of students opting for the automobile engineering course.

Both the Visvesvaraya Technological University and the AICTE had no objection to the college management’s decision to close the department. The bench noted that the college had also closed the Industrial and Production Engineering department from the academic session 2021-22.

Once the self-financing department was closed, the petitioner-professors had no right to continue in service as the post to which they were appointed were abolished, the bench said while stating they would have continued in service till superannuation had the department not been closed.

295 persons fined for smoking in public, 40 cases booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru police stated that such operations will continue to ensure compliance with anti-tobacco regulations.
GETTY IMAGES

The North Division Police of Bengaluru conducted a special enforcement drive against smoking in public and violations under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, registering 40 cases and imposing fines on 295 persons.

The operation was carried out across 13 police station limits in the North Division from the evening of March 6 until late night and continued into the morning of March 7.

The police teams checked public places where smoking is prohibited, and also inspected shops displaying tobacco advertisements.

During the drive, cases were booked against individuals found smoking in prohibited public places, and fines were imposed in accordance with provisions of the COTPA Act, 2003. The police officials inspected commercial establishments and shops suspected of illegally displaying advertisements for cigarettes and other tobacco products.

The police stated that such operations will continue to ensure compliance with anti-tobacco regulations and to discourage smoking in public places.

ପୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
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(ବ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, ବରହମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/61-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 61 - 2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under PERIODICAL MAINTENANCE	01 No	Rs.231.45 Lakhs	“B” Class or “A” Class as applicable	04 (Four) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 61-2025-26/BPR	09.03.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	23.03.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- K.Ch.Khatua, Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
25001/297/2526 OIPR-25001/25071/1/25-26/0024

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 35/2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026 (Call-2)

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-2 & KW-4,** form The Total no of works is 2, **H/A : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CM Infrastructure Development Projects - Capital Expenditures Works** Minimum estimated cost is Rs. 150.00 lakhs, & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 400.00 lakhs, AND The Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 4059-80-051-0-06 SCP Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 25.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	From 04-03-2026 to 11-03-2026 upto 16.30 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	07-03-2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	11-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	12-03-2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	13-03-2026 11.00 AM

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

No. : DIPR : CHANAGAR:771:2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

समग्र शिक्षा
ରାମ୍ରା ଶିକ୍ଷା
Samagra Shiksha

ODISHA SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMME AUTHORITY
"SHIKSHA SOUDHA", UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

No. 2914/VE/2026 **Date: 06.03.2026**

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested & qualified entities for Implementation of Vocational Education program in 315 Sector Schools (both existing and new schools) comprising of 06 sectors/trades approved till the year 2025- 26 including 225 Nos. of Schools under Samagra Shiksha & 90 nos. of PM SHRI Schools.

The EOI document is available on the OSEPA website **osepa.odisha.gov.in**. The agency fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the EoI can access, download the complete document and other details from the above website & apply accordingly. Corrigendum / addendum, if any, shall only be notified in the website mentioned above.

The major events under the EoI process are:

Sl. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of availability of EOI document in OSEPA website	By 07/03/2026
2	Date of conducting pre-proposal meeting	On 17/03/2026 at 11:30 AM (in Hybrid Mode)
3	Last Date for Submission of Bid	By 05:30 PM of 30/03/2026
4	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	At 11:00 AM of 31/03/2026

The proposal complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier only latest by **By 05:30 PM of 30/03/2026** in a sealed envelope super-scribed as **"EoI FOR SELECTION OF VTPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION"** as mentioned in EOI. The proposals received beyond the last date and time shall be rejected. The EOI Inviting Authority i.e. OSEPA reserves the right to accept / reject any / all EoIs / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Address for Submission of Proposal

State Project Director,
Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA)
"Shiksha Soudha", Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001

Sd-
State Project Director

27001/33/2526 OIPR-27001/27068/25-26/0001

NATA 2026

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IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
CONDUCT OF NATA 2026

The Council of Architecture shall conduct NATA 2026 from April 4 to June 13 2026, on all Fridays and Saturdays, at COA-approved Test Centres across the country for admission to the First Year of the 5-Year B.Arch. Degree Programme. NATA Tests held during this period shall be considered by various admission authorities for seat allotment through the Centralized Admission Counselling process. Candidates may appear in a maximum of two attempts during this phase.

An additional NATA 2026 examination shall be conducted on August 7 & 8, 2026, exclusively for candidates who did not appear in the earlier phase. Such candidates shall be permitted one attempt only and shall be considered for admission against vacant seats remaining after completion of the Centralized Admission Counselling process.

Registration for NATA 2026 will commence shortly at www.nata.in. Candidates are advised to visit the website regularly for updates and detailed information.

Who can apply?

Passed or appearing in 10+2 with Physics, Mathematics, and one approved subject as compulsory subjects, OR in 10+3 Diploma with Mathematics, securing at least 45% aggregate marks in each case.

The NATA 2026 brochure containing eligibility criteria, syllabus and other important details along with list of CoA approved institutions imparting B.Arch. program in the country shall be made available at **www.nata.in** and **www.coa.gov.in**.

NATA 2026 score shall be valid for academic session **2026-2027** only.

New Delhi
Date: 08.03.2026 **Registrar**

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BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, BWCC Building, #161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Near Old Navarang Bus Stop, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10 Email : eerajajinagarBWCC@gmail.com

No. EE(RNR)/KPPP/TEND/04/2025-26/CALL-2 **Date : 06-03-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only) (SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, BWCC invites standard tender document KW-1&2 on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any State Government Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Development of roads and Desilting of drains at 21st Cross to 32nd Cross 2nd Block, Rajajinagara in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 12.71 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 16,000/- **Category :** SC
2	Development of Roads and Desilting of drains at Juganahalli 2nd Block surrounding area of Rajajinagara in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 16.94 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 22,000/- **Category :** Cat-II(A)
3	Improvements of drain and providing and Desilting of drains at 36th cross to 40th cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 12.70 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 31,750/- **Category :** Others
4	Improvements of Roads and Desilting of drains at Prakashnagara in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 16.94 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 43,000/- **Category :** Others
5	Beautification of parks in Rajajinagara Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 8.46 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 11,000/- **Category :** Cat-I
6	Improvements of concrete roads at Mariyappanapalya, Prakashnagar in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 8.47 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 11,000/- **Category :** SC
7	Reasphalting of Roads and improvements of drains at Judges Colony Surrounding area in Ward No. 133 Basaveshwaranagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 12.71 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 31,750/- **Category :** Others
8	Improvements of drains and Reasphalting of Roads in Judges colony surrounding area in Ward No. 133 Basaveshwaranagara. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 16.95 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 43,000/- **Category :** Others
9	Improvements and developments of Dayanandanagar in Ward No. 129 Dayanandanagar. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 25.37 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 65,000/- **Category :** Others
10	Pothole Filling in Ward No. 132 Rajajinagar for the year 2025-26. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs.16.93 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 43,000/- **Category :** Others
11	Pothole Filling in Ward No. 134 Kamakshipalya for the year 2025-26. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs.16.94 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 43,000/- **Category :** Others
12	Pothole Filling in Ward No. 133 Basaveshwaranagar for the year 2025-26. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs.16.93 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 43,000/- **Category :** Others

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK KPP Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from : **07.03.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs** Onwards. **(2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents : On **16.03.2026 upto 17:00 Hrs. (3)** Last date for receipt of queries upto : On **12.03.2026 (4)** Opening of Technical document : On **17.03.2026 at 17.30 Hrs. (5)** Financial Opening : Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals through KPPP

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

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Municipal bonds open new funding avenue for Bengaluru corporations

While urban planners welcome the move, they warn that poorly planned issuance of bonds can burden the corporations with debt

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

As the State Budget 2026-27 proposed the issuance of municipal bonds for infrastructure projects, the new Bengaluru city corporations said the move presents an opportunity for them to take up major projects without relying on State government funds.

However, corporations with relatively lower revenue potential may still have to depend on the government to act as a guarantor. On the other hand, while urban planners welcomed the move, they warned that unplanned or poorly planned issuance of bonds could add an additional layer of debt burden on the corporations.

A Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) source said the State government's announcement has come even as the Union Budget proposed an incentive of ₹100 crore for a single bond issuance of more than ₹1,000 crore. This also aligns with the growing market for municipal bonds in India, he added.

"Several corporations across the country, including a few in Tamil Nadu, have already raised municipal bonds. This shows the market trend, and there is an opportunity for Bengaluru corporations as well," said the source. Recently, the Coimbatore and Tiruppur municipal corporations raised nearly ₹150 crore and ₹100 crore, respectively, through municipal bonds.

In fact, the now-defunct Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's predecessor, Bangalore Municipal Corporation (BMC), was the first civic body to raise municipal bonds in the mid-1990s.

Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation, said the Union government's scheme also offers an incentive, which will be an add-on to whatever amount is raised through bonds.

The now-defunct Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's predecessor, Bangalore Municipal Corporation, was the first civic body to raise municipal bonds in the mid-1990s. FILE PHOTO

Union Govt incentive

"The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs provides financial incentives of ₹13 crore per ₹100 crore of bonds issued. It provides a maximum of ₹26 crore per civic body," he told *The Hindu*. "When estimated percentage-wise, we will have to pay back at least 2 to 2.3% less than the interest on traditional bank loans," he added.

A source from the East Corporation explained that what municipal bonds essentially offer is a move away from reliance on the government. "Even the allocation of ₹3,000 crore for the five corporations will be diverted towards receipts of works taken up by the government. For corporation-desired projects, the civic body itself has to fund them, as the government won't allocate a separate sum," he said.

Therefore, for big projects, civic bodies have to depend on the government. With the BBMP split, the revenue has also been divided, which means it is even more difficult now for a single corporation to take up big-budget projects on its own.

For example, property tax, which is one of the main sources of income for corporations, is less than ₹500 crore for the North and West corporations. With that revenue, the corporations have to clear receipts, repay previous debts, and also maintain their properties, such as parks and canteens. This is where municipal bonds could help corporations take up new projects.

However, another GBA source explained that it will not be easy for the West and North corporations to raise bonds because lower revenue sources mean lower creditworthiness, which could hamper their chances.

K.V. Rajendra, Commissioner, West City Corporation, said that although credit rating may be a concern, a system is in place to maintain creditworthiness. "We have hired a credit rating agency to look after this, so this shouldn't be a problem. However, if required, the government can also stand as a guarantor for raising bonds," he told *The Hindu*.

Priority projects

V. Ravichandar, member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee, said municipal bonds offer potential financing, but they must be matched with resources to repay them over time, and the end use must be priority projects. "The project for which bonds are raised must be well planned. If not, the project itself will be of little use and will also add debt to corporations," he said.

"It is best to ring-fence the bonds raised for the specific project only," he added.

Workshop on Budget for legislators to be held in Bengaluru tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be the main resource person for the workshop on the State Budget for legislators to be held at Hotel Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru on Monday evening, said Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader in Mangaluru on Saturday.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Khader said the workshop aims to make legislators aware about different aspects of the Budget, namely revenue mobilisation, surplus and deficit budgets, fiscal responsibility, and distribution of grants.

"There is no other competent resource person other than Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has presented 17 budgets, to address the legislators," he noted. The legislators who attend the workshop will get preference in the Budget discussion, Mr. Khader said.

D. Vedavyasa Kamath, Mangaluru City South MLA, said he will not attend the workshop. "We have persons capable to help us understand the Budget," he noted. When asked about Mr. Khader's giving preference in the Budget discussion to legislators taking part in the workshop, Mr. Kamath said MLAs cannot be denied the right of taking part in the discussion.

State Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader talking to reporters in Mangaluru on Saturday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The Speaker says the workshop aims to make legislators aware about different aspects of the Budget

Plans enunciated to strengthen digital governance in Revenue Dept.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Budget 2026-27 announced a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening digital governance in the Revenue Department, with a focus on integrating databases, upgrading software platforms, and expanding paperless services.

The government will also develop a new platform for digital e-stamping and end-to-end paperless registration. After that, stamp generation, record writing, document storage, retrieval, and digital sharing processes will be carried out online.

One sub-registrar office in each district will be modernised as a 'Registration Guarantee Centre' to improve citizen experience during mandatory visits. Modelled on Passport Seva Kendras, five mega-registration centres of global standards will be established under the public-private partnership model in the State.

Under the Karnataka Land-Stack scheme, data from applications such as Bhoomi, Mojini, Kaveri, e-Swathu, and e-Aasthi will be integrated into a master database and hosted on a GIS-based digital platform.

The Kaveri software will be upgraded to version 3.0 at a cost of ₹65 crore, aimed at plugging the existing issues and also at simplifying the registration process. The new system will enable AI-based paperless registration and will be integrated with asset management systems across departments. There were bottlenecks reported over e-Khata and malware attacks on the Kaveri 2.0 portal recently.

Further, the Bhoomi platform will be upgraded to version 8.0 at an estimated cost of ₹50 crore, making it compatible with the latest technologies. The upgraded system will be linked with more than 10 departments.

To ensure transparency and accuracy, e-KYC and face recognition will be made mandatory for 43 services under the Revenue Department. By integrating the Kutumba, FRUITS, and Bhoomi applications, a decision support system will also be developed.

A source in the department said that the announcements are mainly aimed at increasing transparency and accountability, while also seamlessly extending citizen services. Once all the upgrades are completed, the department's proceedings and processes will be streamlined and more organised.

Storage

A total of 207 sub-registrar offices in the Registration Department will be digitalised to enable long-term storage and preservation of pre-2003 legacy documents. Further modern record rooms will be established at a cost of ₹72 crore in the offices of the assistant director of land records to preserve the documents, which are as old as 160 years.

The government also announced that 5,150 existing telemetric weather stations will be replaced to ensure reliable rainfall and weather data, and enable early warning systems, for which ₹40 crore will be earmarked. During 2026-27, an amount of ₹1,162 crore will be earmarked for disaster relief measures.

Elders' day event today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hiriyara Utsava: Elders Fest, an event celebrating the spirit, talent, and contributions of senior citizens, is being organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, in association with Nightingales Medical Trust and V-the-Volunteers, on Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hudson Memorial Community Centre, Bengaluru.

"The event will bring together over 200 senior citizens from senior citizen homes and elder day care centres across Bengaluru. Hiriyara Utsava aims to promote healthy ageing, encourage intergenerational bonding, and provide a platform for elders to showcase their talents through cultural performances, games, and interactive activities," said a release from the event.

Rangapanchami celebrated with great fervour in Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Yet again, Hubballi got soaked in myriad colours as people of all age groups came out in large numbers to celebrate Rangapanchami (celebrated on the fifth day after the Full Moon), as part of the Holi on Saturday.

A huge crowd, including children, youths, couples, and elderly, gathered to celebrate the festival with fervour, applying colours and exchanging greetings.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **A Krubai Nathan** S/o D Arumai Raj R/at, No.8, 14th Main Road, 1st Cross, Transformer, K.P. Agrahara, Mariyappanapalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023 do hereby solemnly state that I have changed my name from **A KRUBAI NATHAN** S/o D ARUMAI RAJ to **A KIRUBAI NATHAN** S/o D ARUMAI RAJ and will continue in this name for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 07th March 2026 sworn to Notary.

ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿ.ಸಿ ಫಾರಂ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಇ ಮೇಲ್:eousmandya@mail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃ.ವಿ.ವಿ.ಮ/ಆ.ಆ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/154/2025.26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **Security and Upkeeping** ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್, ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡತಿವೆ.

1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	14.03.2026	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	16.06.2026	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	17.03.2026	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಕೆಲಸದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಿವಸಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ವಿ.ಸಿ.ಫಾರಂ,ಮಂಡ್ಯ-571405 ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9448196321.

ಸಹಿ/-ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಜಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/871/ಕಿರಿಡಿ ಸಾಬು/2025-26 ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಅಪ್ಪಾಜಿ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಕೊತ್ತಿಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ (ವಡೇರಹಳ್ಳಿ ರೈಲ್ವೆಗೇಟ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ರಾಮನಗರ-562159. ದೂ.: 080-29911780, e-mail: ddkandmgka @ gmail.com

ಸಂ.: ಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿಬೆಂದ/ಬಹ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2026

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಹಲಸಬೆಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.58 ರ 6-35 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಕುರಿತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.10.2019 ರಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.58 ರ ಅರ್ಜಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸಿ 103 ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕಾ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡದೇ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲೇ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಸಭೆಯು ಸರ್ವಾನುಮತದಿಂದ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ರವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.03.2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ 103 ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕಾ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆಯೋ ಹೇಗಿದೆಯೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ" ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು** ಎಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಖನಿಜದ ವಿಧ, ಕೋಡ್, ಸ್ಥಳ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಧನ ವಿವರ (As per Schedule-II, III & Form O)	ಕ್ಯೂಬಿಕ್ ಮೀ.	ಖನಿಜ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (25%) ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	As per Form O, Granites: (3) Pink Gneisses and Mygmatites (Multicoloured Ganites) Granites: **(a)** with Fractures and Large Black patches and unsized ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, As per Schedule-III, PGM-1 Minimum rate 3000/Cu.Mt. ।.ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಲಸಬೆಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 58 ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ, ವಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾದ 103 ಬಹುವರ್ಣೀಯ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಮ 47ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 423.69 Cu.Mt	423.69	12,71,070/-	3,17,768/-
	ಒಟ್ಟು	423.69	12,71,070/-	3,17,768/-

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ **ರೂ. 1000/-** ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ Demand Draft ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾರಾಟ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಖನಿಜದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮಾಗಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9844183858, 9900501140.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
DIPR/SAD/686/SA/2025-26 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ (ಗಣಿ) ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/4059-CMIDP/2025-26/5143
Dated:06.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 4 works, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP SH and MDR Improvements, head of account costing of maximum and minimum amount for Rs.990.00 Lakhs and RS.450.00 lakhs the EMD amount of maximum and minimum Rs.15,00,000/- and RS.6,75,000/- for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date- 12.03.2026 upto 11.00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date16.03.2026. upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-17.03.2026 at 4.31 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-18.03.2026 at 4.31 PM onwords. Clause-4 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "htttps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/782/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre-qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Construction of Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital/Primary Veterinary Centre at various places for Veterinary department.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	With in Belagavi District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 713 & IFT No: 160/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 4,16,68,315/-
2	With in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru & Chitradurga District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 719 & IFT No: 163/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 3,43,02,312/-
3	With in Bidar, Yadgir & Kalaburgi District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 722 & IFT No: 165/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 2,64,47,571/-
4	With in Raichur, Vijayanagar & Vijayapura District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 723 & IFT No: 166/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026 **Amount put to tender Rs:** 2,26,79,261/-
5	With in Haveri District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 724 & IFT No: 168/2025-26, Date: 06.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 3,03,33,030/-
6	With in Uttar Kannada District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 725 & IFT No: 169/2025-26, Date: 06.03.20262, **Amount put to tender Rs:** 2,27,44,433/-
	for Sl No.1 to 6 Last date and time for Submission of Bid. Date: 20.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM
7	With in Davangere District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 717 & IFT No: 161/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 1,51,62,162/-
8	With in Bengaluru South dist & Tumkur District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 718 & IFT No: 162/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:**1,89,50,358/-
9	With in Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban & Chikkaballapura District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 720 & IFT No: 164/2025-26, Date: 05.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 1,89,43,635/-
	for Sl No.7 to 9 Last date and time for Submission of Bid. Date: 13.03.2026 up to 4.00 pm
10	With in Dakshina Kannada District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 721 & IFT No: 167/2025-26, Date: 06.03.2026. **Amount put to tender Rs:** 1,51,61,345/-
11	With in Gadag District. Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 726 & IFT No: 170/2025-26, Date: 06.03.2026. **Amout put to tender Rs:** 1,51,78,403/-
	for Sl No.10 and 11 Last date and time for Submission of Bid. Date: 16.03.2026 up to 4.00 pm

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6084/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

Union Sports Minister to lay foundation stone for ₹14 crore indoor stadium at V.C. Farm in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Madaviya will lay the foundation stone for a multi-purpose indoor stadium to be built under the Khelo India scheme of the Union Government at V.C. Farm in Mandya district on March 14.

Sharing this information with the reporters after visiting the V.C. Farm on Saturday and inspecting the site for the stadium, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H. D. Kumaraswamy said a well-equipped stadium will be constructed on 1.5 acres of land at a cost of ₹ 14 crore.

"We are taking steps to encourage rural children to take up sports. However, more land is required to provide additional sports facilities here. We hope the State government will provide the required land," he said.

He said he had initially requested the government to provide land for the stadium within Mandya city, but since land was not available there, space was allotted at V.C. Farm.

"We need about five acres. In the coming days, sports facilities will be expanded to cover five acres," he said.

On the occasion, Mr. Kumaraswamy inspected the electric two-wheelers that will be distributed to 388 persons with disabilities during the foundation laying ceremony for the stadium on March 14.

The vehicles are being provided under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of TVS Motor Company and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) under the Union Ministry of Steel.

Mr. Kumaraswamy welcomed the State Government's Budget announcement to provide 100 acres of land in Mandya to establish a research and testing centre of the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).

Mr. Kumaraswamy has also assured help to a two-year-old boy from Shivara village in Mandya taluk, who is suffering from a rare disease.

Women activists and representatives of various organisations taking out a jatha in Hassan on Saturday. PRAKASH HASSAN

Activist questions silence over atrocities on women

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Noted civil rights activist Teesta Setalvad has raised concerns over the lack of public protest against increasing atrocities toward Dalits, minorities, Adivasis, and young girls, as well as the growing "weaponisation of laws" in the country.

Speaking in Hassan on Saturday, Ms. Setalvad addressed the inauguration of a two-day event marking International Women's Day. The event was organised by the Karnataka Rajya Mahila Dourjanya Virodhi Okkuta, a statewide forum dedicated to combating violence against women.

Ms. Setalvad remarked that the ideology governing the centre and over a dozen states stands in opposition to the Indian Constitution. "We actually have this whole tension and dichotomy that those who hold positions of power and constitutional power do not believe in the principles of equality," she said.

Ms. Setalvad alleged that women and Muslims were being disenfranchised in the name of special intensive revision of voters' list. "Because they could not bring CAA because of protests across the country, they are now trying to disenfranchise Muslims and women through the denial of the right to vote," she stated, adding that 62% of those disenfranchised from the voting list are women and 64% are Muslims. Those being removed from the list include migrant workers, Dalits, transgender people and Adivasis," she said. Referring to the arrest of activists fighting for rights under the draconian laws, she questioned why there had hardly been any response to the "weaponisation of laws".

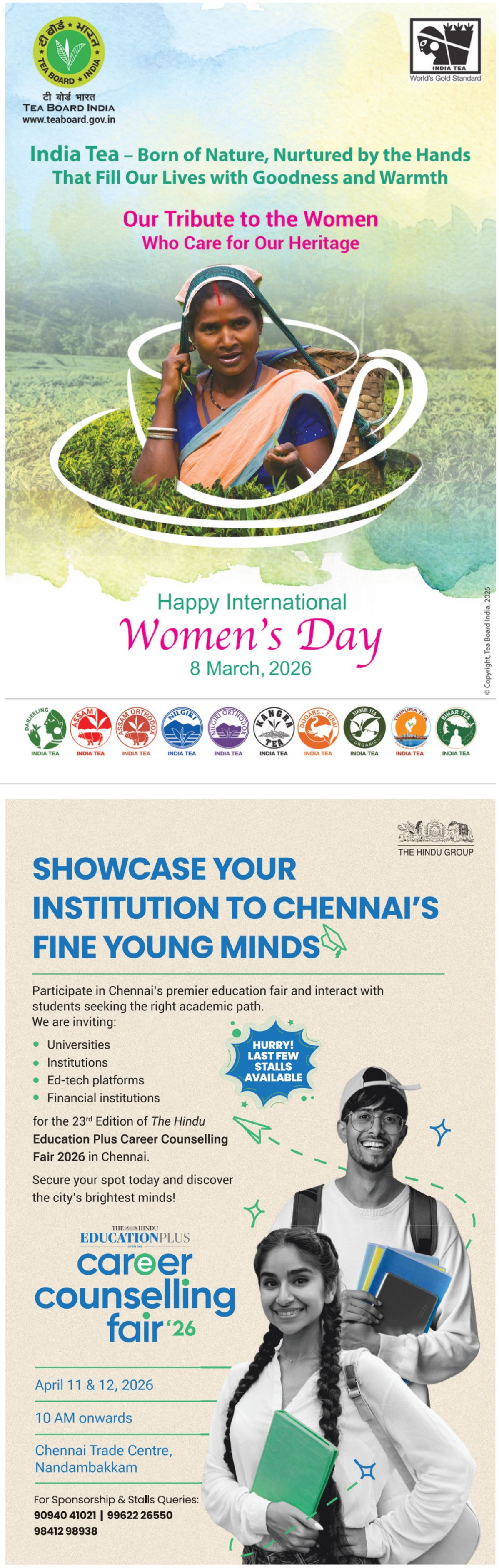
Ms. Setalvad highlighted a rise in anti-Dalit and anti-Adivasi brutality, noting that even young girls were being sexually violated in the classrooms. "But I don't see protests on the streets. What is holding us back?" she questioned.

Resolution

Turning to international affairs, she urged organisers to pass a resolution condemning military actions by Israel and the US. She specifically cited an attack on a school in Minab, Iran, where 160 people–including 150 children–were reportedly killed. She also drew attention to the crisis in Gaza, stating that 79,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including 18,000 children.

Prof. Sabita Bannadi, in her preliminary remarks, stated that the forum took shape in the backdrop of incidents of atrocities on women in Delhi and Mangaluru in 2012. The forum, since then, has held several programmes to spread awareness against the atrocities and held rallies in each district every year on the International Women's Day. The 14th event was being held in Hassan. "We hold year-long awareness programmes in Hassan," she said.

A compendium on women achievers of Hassan, edited by writer Rupa Hassan, was released on the occasion. Writers Dr. H.S. Anupama, Sukanya Kanaralli and others were present.



Classifieds

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BENGALI

25/164 FAIR slim girl , M.Sc Chemistry only child , Debari Gon, parents (Scientist / Prof) Chennai seeks educated brahmin groom. Ph: 7358591856

COSMOPOLITAN

MALAYALEE CATHOLIC parents seek alliance for their daughter 29/ 158cm, B.Tech., MS., working in Netherlands. Contact 9600017351

BEAUTIFUL CULTURED 33, 160cm, EU–based professional (BL/MBA). Able to relocate. Seeks compatible, handsome groom, preferably veg. Lang./caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

DIVORCEE

KIND, BEAUTIFUL 46, well–educated, soft–spoken UK–based professor. Seeks well–read, compatible groom. Able to relocate. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

NAIR, FAIR, good looking, age 38/ 173, MBA, Thiruvonam, employed settled Chennai, seeks well settled groom WhatsApp call: 9884872901

DOCTOR

ROMAN CATHOLIC, MD (Anaesthesiology), Reputed School, College, 27 yrs, Fair, Highly Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Doctors Catholic groom, WhatsApp Profile – 7550065082

PARENTS OF Obstetrician & Gynaecologist MBBS MS F.MAS 91 Born 158cm Gavara Naidu CNB looking for suitable well settled groom 9443394490

SEEKING GROOM for my daughter born Dec 1993 MS General Surgery doing 3rd year MCh in Neuro Surgery ht 160 cm from PG Doctor or suitably qualified preferably from Mudaliar/ Pillai Contact 7904339374

GROOM WANTED for 32 years Doctor MS (opthal) Senior Resident cadre. Inter caste parents (Father SC and Mother Telugu). Seeks Doctors groom only. Contact No. 8148399916 / 9003232279

HINDU VISWAKARMA Beautiful 168cm / 1994 / MBBS, MD, DNB / Bangalore / doctor bride(f- IAS) requires MBBS + PG - studying / working - Forward Hindu doctor groom (preferably willing to settle @ Bangalore) Mobile: 9743403900

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

A dedicated **Obstetrician & Gynaecologist,** 28, MBBS DNB, 156 cm, fair, from a respected, education-oriented Tamil family (Udayar Hindu), Chennai. Seeking a groom of parallel professional calibre—preferably in medicine—from a family of similar standing. He should be principled, forward-thinking, and purposeful in his pursuits. Family enquiries only.
Ct: 98410 78080

SUPER SPECIALIST doctor working in Bangalore 34 years/155cms, fair, slim seeks suitable groom with good habits caste no bar ct - 9449010122

HINDU/ NAIDU 91 born Dr. Girl MBBS MD Simham / Magam seeks MD, MS, MCH boy, any Naidu / any Tamil BC / MBC. Contact Parents: 94446 73311

Seeking Groom for my Daughter born Sep 1991, MBBS, MD Pathology (2nd year) in Chennai, 165cm, seeks suitable PG Doctor, CA, Engineer, from well Settled Telugu Naidu or Other Backward Community. Ct: 98401 96667.

Kerala Hindu, PG Lady Doctor in USA 28 years/ 161 cm /55 Kg seeks alliance from Doctors in USA 9922443060

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

ENGINEER

Mudaliar / Vanniar 31Y /165cm Doctor MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer Grooms. Ph: 94444 54188

ENGLISH

BEAUTIFUL, WARM–HEARTED, well–traveled and educated, US–based Tanzanian Christian lawyer, 44. Seeks compatible, family–oriented and well–settled groom, willing to relocate. Contact: valence.couture0@icloud.com. Serious inquiries only.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

MBBS Brahmin B'Ful girl bsd in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Pursuing MS,1997, Seeks Well Settled handsome boy Prefer Civil services/ Medical. Upper Caste no bar # 9826180684

KANNADA

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
FOR
KANNADA SHIVALI BRAHMIN
AGED 29, BORN - AUG '96.
WELL SETTLED. B.ARCH & MBA,
OWN HOUSE AT CHENNAI,
PRESENTLY WORKING
AT HYDERABAD **EARNING**
20LAKHS PER ANNUM
HEIGHT - 5.2.
~ SEEKS ~
SUITABLE BRIDEGROOM
FROM SAME CASTE
BRIDE FATHER
INDUSTRIALIST
BRIDE MOTHER
CENTRAL GOVT.
ASST COMMISSIONER
Respond with photo & Full details
sanjusanjana99@yahoo.com

MALAYALAM

✔ **Alliance invited** for 27/165 cm Hindu Kerala Bride, Master's in Law, London. Seeking professionally Qualified Hindu Groom, 27–30/183cm +, UK/US based. Contact: +91 9840891143.

PROPOSALS FOR daughter Anisha 25 Thiyya Bharani MSC Statistics working Bangalore 97468 89952 krishnakumarexe@gmail.com

NRI

OUR DAUGHTER '93/5'6" Hindu H1B fellow from reputed med school, very pretty friendly well mannered, now working as specialist doctor in US. Seeking suitable doctor groom from good family, working/ settled in US. Language caste no bar, reqst pic & full details W: 9894651124

ALLIANCE INVITED for 35–year–old, 5'4", MS–educated, accomplished professional, divorced, working in New Jersey, USA. Belongs to a cultured Aggarwal community from North India. Seeking professionally qualified, well–settled groom residing in USA. Caste no bar. Please contact 7838895369, 9990374471

NRI GROOM wanted-Nair girl, 52, Msc PhD, Scientist, never married, US ctzn Chicago.Malayalam/Tamil US residing boys only contact: 9895824803

Tamil RC / 28yrs / B.Tech / MS / Pursuing PHD in Toronto seeks Christian groom in Canada. Mail to - Judejd@rediffmail.com

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 27, BSc, 50 lakhs. 8137001255

CHRISTIAN, ADI Dravidar –33yrs, MBBS, Seeks Groom Doctor, Engineer A 2 Officer. Ct : 9677257313

✔ **MUSLIM GIRL 38 well mannered invites qualified, working, unmarried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN 31 Fair Beautiful PG MNC Chennai 15L/a. Prefer Well settled Religious Christian boy. 9840345969

CHRISTIAN, 33, MS, Doctor, Rich, 30 lakhs. PH: 8138900316

MUSLIM, 35, B.Tech, Private, 20 lakhs. PH:8138900470

CHRISTIAN, 23, BDS, Upper Middle class. PH:8138901281

CHRISTIAN, 39, Private, 30 Lakhs, MHRM. PH:8137003263

Christian, BDS + MPH, never - married, 1991, 162cm. Contact: 9042331000

CHRISTIAN, DOCTOR, 38 Years Unmarried, Well Settled Family. Seeks Unmarried Doctor Groom. Ct: 7550286805

CHRISTIAN RC / Tamil Girl / MBC / 34 Yrs / IT /Chennai & Bengaluru / Cont: 9884057123

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CHRISTIAN SPRITUAL homeloving affectionate Good looking girl 26/ 151/ B.Arch.Seeks God fearing/ Clean habits well qualified boy Ct: 9025608385

VELLALAR / PILLAI 30 B.E.MBA (IIM) AGM MNC Bangalore 30L PA Seeks DOCTOR Officer Govt PSU IIM IIT NIT Groom. CNB. 9994113213.

SEEKING ALLIANCE for IIM Qualified girl 28/165cm /35 LPA from Agamudayar community. Vegetarian. Working in Pune. The groom is expected to be equally qualified and earning. Ready to relocate. Alliance from other backward communities is also ok. Call: 9969921961

MUDALIAR 24 BE, MBA 163Cm Good Looking, well Settled Family, Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU, 31, Naidu, Divorced, Phd, 10crores, NRI. 8137001255

HINDU, 33, any caste, ME, 15 crores, NRI. 8138900312

HINDU, 31, any caste, Canada, 20 crores. 9072777822

Hindu SC ADI Dravidar 38/157 cm PG MBA. Govt. employee @ Chennai divorce no child seeks suitable groom. Ph: 87786 30870

TAMIL HINDU Nadar, B.Tech (CS) working in Cisco, Bangalore, Rs 25LPA 31yrs/160cm , Moolam / Dhanush seeks groom with similar background. Brokers excuse. Ph: 91768 00819

VELLALAR PILLAI, Non–Veg 28/166cm, ME(CS), Senior Dev in leading Software Co, Chennai. Kadagam/Poosam. Seeking well–settled, professionally qualified groom (MNC / Govt/ Business) from respectable family. Send BHP to: sakthiservices26@gmail.com Cell: 87780 43772, 98840 99966

HINDU SC AD 33 MCA working Seeks Suitable Groom CNB Chennai Ph 8610410886.

SC (AD), 28yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9710093999

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 25yrs, M.sc (UK), Running Own Industries Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

HINDU PILLAI, 28/163, MBBS,M.S., fair, good looking. seeks groom Pref. medical from allied communities. Contact Parent 9944751704, 8248333214

AGE 42, 2nd marriage, Divorcee, No Child. Seeks suitable Groom. caste No bar. Ct: 7708700879 / 9841817000

ONLY DAUGHTER, 32, B.Tech(Hons), DLL & AL, Sub Registrar (TN Govt), Father– Ex CRPF, Wealthy family Gavara Naidu seeks civil services–IAS, IPS, IRS, Group 1–DC/DSP, Doctor– MD/MS groom. Caste no bar. 9003450802

US BORN Hindu Saiva Pillai Doctor girl 30 years 5'4" from affluent Doctor family seeks professional boys from US with similar background and qualifications. Please contact 91 9940141970 via WA or EMAIL rmaomaha@gmail.com

WELL EDUCATED, 37, Divorcee Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 9489695984.

HINDI

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Age: 35 / 5'1" highly educated self-employed, Agarwal girl in Chennai from affluent family seeks suitable life partner.
Must be Chennai Resident.
Whatsapp No. 98410 60505
No Broker Please

TAMIL

SOZHIYAVELLALAR PILLAI Age 31 BE (CSE) Working in Pvt Sector Chennai, Seeks Groom Preferable from Pillai/Mudaliar Age 31–34, BE Working In IT Field Employed in Chennai / India / Abroad. Ct Gowdhaman 9342276143

SAIVA PILLAI, 28 /170cm, B.E, Working 16L/PA, Seeks same Caste, Well Groom, aged 28 & 30 yrs. 9840315397

DKV HINDU Pallan 29 MBBS Doctor Aswini Mesham Father Mother Doctor Seeks Doctor Only. 9443151045, 9442924441.

CASTE NO bar, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9952619776

CASTE NO Bar, 25yrs, MS (UK),Well Educated background & Landlord, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact 6385293227

MUDALIAR REMARRIAGE 36/163cm Bcom Chennai seeks professional groom chennai 9884858014

MUDALIYAR SUBCAST BDS 34years well Settled Family. In and Around Chennai. Ct: 8637481104 & 9486531194

HINDU NAIR 31/168 MTech PhD Australia seeks wellsettled professional CNB Australia only Geetham9884858014

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 37 165 cm BE Professional Chennai seeks High Prof Busi Chennai Groom CNB Geetham 9884858014

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, Elite Family, 34/ 165, Mirugasim, 8 Raghu, PG (HR, MNC) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

HINDU UDAYAR Doctor wrkg in Singapore wheatish 30/160/65kg/ only child.Mild Vitiligo/well settled family frm Chennai,seeks Dr/Engg/ CA/Architect/ Biz from Chn/abroad 9840784555

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 32yrs, B.Tech, MBA,Working in Bangalore, Elite business family: 9962791888

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR,
40 yrs, 154 Cms, B.E., MBA., M.S. (Boston) U.S.A., Hastham, Kanni, Sr.Manager in RBC in Canada. Family is well settled – Looking for affluent family match in Sengunthar / Agamudaiyar / Vellalar in INDIA / USA / CANADA
9843092595

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ **ROMAN CATHOLIC/31 yrs/181 cms/ BE (Mech),MS (Product Design)/ PR Sweden. Inviting proposals from professionally qualified girls with a similar background, aged 26–29 yrs. Please email at sjm.val7@gmail.com or contact at 6381070174.**

SMART MATURE 27, 178cm, well–educated (double MS), EU–based professional. Affluent business family. Seeks compatible bride. Community/ language no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

MS, PHD (USA) working in Florida (USA) 180cm, 32 Years Smart, Fair, Thiyya Community seeks USA based compatible bride. Community, Language no bar. Call 9343343888 / WA 9880088333 – Email: deeceecon@yahoo.co.in

BRIDE WANTED Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R) for his Son Sept 1993 born, 178cm, MBA Finance, Premier B School. working in Oil PSU, Mumbai. likely to move to Bangalore. Maharashtrian/ Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Expectation–professionally qualified girl Caste/ Language NO BAR Whatsapp 7305236868

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD 33 mutual divorced intercaste Hindu – Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor other degree willing to settle in Trichy city. No expectation. Ct: 98430 75979.

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA DOCTOR, Makam, 01.06.1998, 163cm/74KG, second year PG (DNB-General Medicine), Father Business man, Mother Teacher, Sister Doctor, place Thiruvananthapuram. Well financial back ground. Seeks alliance from Doctor or other professional fair girls. 9895115800.

MALAYALEE NAIR, 31 years, IT professional, well-educated and well-settled in Trichy, seeks a suitable bride from Coimbatore / Trichy / Madurai. Well-mannered and family-oriented background preferred. Contact: 98430 59929

Marthomite Boy, Chengannur 39/172, MCA Digital Marketing Freelancer. Contact 9620331482

Kerala Ezhava Boy 29 years/ 175 cm, B Tech, MBA (XLRI) from a well settled Family, Working in Microsoft, Hyderabad. Seeking Alliance from well Employed or Qualified Girls. Mobile No 9099900264/ 9558336628.

PUNJABI

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Punjabi Boy, Chennai, 33 years, working as HR in UAE. Please Call : 98404 25490

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 29, MBA, Private, 50 lakhs. 9048444858

CHRISTIAN, 31, Rich, 70 lakhs, Doctor, 2nd marriage. 8138900470

MUSLIM, NRI, 25, Rich, 45 lakhs. 9072777811

CHRISTIAN, 27, NRI, 18 crores, Rich. 8138900652

SUPER SPECIALITY Doctor, affluent family, never married, Tamil speaking Muslim,34, 178cm working abroad. Looking for suitable bride. Whatsapp 918870279396

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC 28YRS Er Graduate, MNC, decent salary from Business family. Seeks bride from decent family community no bar details to: dalsingroup@gmail.com / 9840239597

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

HINDU MUDALIAR Marine Engineer 40yrs Naga Dosha Own House Chennai Well Settled Seeks Bride.Ct: 9444532266

MUDALIAR/ THULLUVA Vellalar, 28, BTech, MBA, Poosam, Only son, 164 cms, Business, Well settled in Coimbatore, Own Properties, Seek Bride. Sub Sec No Bar, 9841273353, 9841300229

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 39yrs, BE, Divorce, Elite business family in Australia Ct:9841329471/ 9380791999

SC HINDU UK PR 29Yr, any Jathagam, Good Job+Busines 90Laks P.A Normal Girl Ok Want to go to UK 7358638363

CHENNAI, MUDLR PhD Tetolr Divorced, 42yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac / mth. Educ Simple Any Cast, girl 9884171419

AGE 48, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

HINDI

BRIDE WANTED
Age: 37 / 5'2" highly educated BE / MBA, Agarwal, well settled in Chennai, Affluent Family.
Renal Transplanted, Living normal life on Medication.
Suitable educated girl including divorcee without Kid may respond to
Whatsapp No. 98410 60505
No Broker Please

TAMIL

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 36/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen. He will be in India March, April'2026, seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 35/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact:8220984182

40 BE Mudaliyar Chennai Asst Manager, Private. 1St Marriage. Decent Background Ct: 8610518808, 9952010118

HINDU VANNIYAR 37 years MBA, LLB, builders, MITHUNAM-THIRUVATHIRAI Well qualifide bride TINDIVANAM Ct: 9884637555

NAIDU MAY 2000 born, MBBS MD, Star Visakam, Rasi Thulam Groom seeks MBBS, MD (Clinial or Non clinical studying) BE, MDS Bride. Ct: 94430 50715 / 94879 00758

HINDU NADAR, 25yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

BRIDE WANTED Mudaliyar 31yrs, B.Tech, Promoters with Own construction, Elite Family in Chennai 6385293227

SC AD 29, M.Tech, Software Engineer working in MNC Chennai seeks suitable employed Bride. Ct: 8939177665

TAMIL, PURE Vegetarian, 47 State Govt Officer –12L PA. First Marriage. Seek Caste no Bar only Vegetarian. Call/WA – 89037 47433

HINDU, 30, Business, MBM, Elite. PH:8138009235

HINDU, 26, Royale, anycaste, business. PH:9072777811

HINDU, YADAV, MD, Doctor, 30 lakhs. PH:9048444858

KARKATHA VELLALAR 27/182 cm, B.Tech Avittam Managing Director of a high–growth business. Pure Vegetarian, Teetotaler. Seeking a well–educated, family–oriented girl from a respectable family. WhatsApp only. 9363905354

PILLAI 34 M.Tech Wkg MNC Blr Seeks BrideGood Looking & Working. 30–32yrs,CNB. Ct: 9884104533/ 9840863620

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

HINDU AD/37yrs/BE, MBA/Mgr/Axis Bank, Neyveli salary Rs 65000/PM, Rasi - Mesham, Star - Bharani seeks suitable bride Contact : 94878 05771

MUDHALIYAR, CA,24L pa, Age–40, Never married, Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land, Sub Caste ok. 9677622641 / 9962294842

VANNIYAR, B.SC MBA, 45, Ayilyam, Employed , Brides from same community needed. Ct 9840961251 / 9840708702

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

SEEKING TAMIL Hindu BRIDE for our son, March 1990/173cm, MTech(IIT), MS(US), working in US. Parents intercaste Thevar and Iyengar, Caste No Bar. 96008 65587, sivampankajam@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR bride, My Son earns 15L PA aged 39 H 168cm. Two own house in chennai. mob 9697750005.

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 30yrs, B.tech, MBA,SWE, 3Lac p/m Elite business family Ct:9841329471/ 9380791999

MUDALIAR 32/185, Handsome, MBBS MD, Prashant Hospital, 3000000 PA, Elite, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

HINDU, BRAHMIN Kaashyapa, Rohini/ BDS/Dentist/30 years/170cms based in Chennai, own house, is seeking a girl, age difference 1–5 years Vegetarian, Any Brahmin / Saiva Pillai / Saiva Mudaliyar Girl, good family background. Contact: 8668127702

TAMIL

HINDU-TAMIL- BE / SWE / 34yrs / 172CMS / 33LPA / Ayillam -Kadagam . Well educated and settled in Bangalore, financially stable. Looking for suitable Bride from educated family. Contact No: 9845401461.

✔ **TAMIL IYER Ambitious Groom seeks suitable girl below 40yrs. Boy 5.7ft, working as R&D Engg. Fair & Good looking. Ph 98402 11194**

MUDALIAR /BRAHMIN 28 Bcom MA 175cm chennai seeks slim graduate pillai, Brahmin ok : Geetham 9884858014

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

SEEKING BRIDE
Alliance Invited - Vellalar Groom (35) Australian PR holder from a reputed business family in Tamilnadu. Financially secure, well-mannered, and family-oriented. Divorced. Looking for a compatible bride from Vellalar or similar community. Serious enquiries only.
Contact:
9965101234
csknetherlands@gmail.com

VISWAKARMA 31 Yrs M.Tech (IIIT) SWE Bangalore, 50 LPA, Seeks well settled working Bride. Ct : 9444302810

Vanniyakula Kshatriya 27/175 B.Tech MBA Magam / Simmam working at Bangalore well educated family settled in Chennai. Seeks Suitable fair, educated, Professional Bride.Ct:9884244151

Mudaliyar 33, 174 cms, Engineer Employee @ Hyderabad. Family is well off. Looking for a suitable bride from a well settled family. Contact - 98845 13749

IITK MTech 31 / 180CM working at Bangalore IT 20-25LPA from Mumbai Adidravida PR SC(Karthigai Rishabam OK with out horoscope) Caste No Bars simple marriage WhatsApp: 8850942253 / 9869353801

37Y B.Com Pooram Rs 3 lakhs per month seeks any graduate bride. No brokers. 96291 95475 / 044- 28444665

HINDU ADIDRAVIDA 27/182, Slim, handsome, IITan working in MNC Bangalore seek professional, good-looking bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 94443 55377

TELUGU

AGE 45 MCA Sadhayam,Kumbha rasi Fair Software Engineer seeks suitable Bride, caste no bar. PH: 9894670293

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu 46yrs, M.Tech, Divorce, Own Hospitals & Own colleges in Chennai Contact:6385293227

NAIDU 28 Fair 174 MCA Business 12L PA seeks Qualified Co working Business minded Life Partner. 9444523941

NAIDU 31/187, Handsome, MBBS MD, Manipal Hospitals,B.lore,2800000 PA, Elite, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BALIJA NAIDU 36, Sadayam star, BE MBA, working in MNC Chennai income 18LPA seeks alliance from suitable Telugu bride, +2 or any degree. Ph: 94447 89227 / 84314 66302

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

KONGU VELLALAR GOUNDER, 38, 178 cms, MS from US. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from the similar community from a well settled family from any location. Contact: 8939922287

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYA, 28, 158 cms, MBA, Program Manager. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match with the similar caste. Contact: 8939922287

KAPU, 32, 165 cms, BE. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from the similar caste. Contact: 8939922287

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 45, 158 cms, CA, Divorced, MS. Lives in Dublin. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from equivalent caste in the USA or willing to relocate. Contact: 8939922287

PILLAI, 42, 178 cms, CA and Sr Manager. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any community. Contact: 8939922287

BALIJA NAIDU, 25, 180 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Law. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any similar caste. Contact: 8939922287

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TAMIL

✔ **TAMIL VISWAKARMA,** 26 years, 56 with a wheatish complexion, is a Senior Designer earning 9 LPA. A graduate in Textile Design from NIFT – National Institute of Fashion Technology, Chennai, she belongs to Magaram, Avitam 1 Padam, and seeks a professional groom. Contact: 9962863038.

THULUVA VELLALA, 26/162cm ,BE.,MBA, Employed,Revathi,Parents Employed (MNC/Govt) seeks Well Settled Professionally Qualified Groom 9952013212

HINDU, 26, Anycaste, Govt, Nurse, 20 lakhs. PH:8138900553

HINDU SC AD 26/151,MSC Thiruvonam Magaram Fair Good Looking Chennai. Seeks Govt /Pvt Employed Groom From Chennai Good Family. wh:9629412661

Hindu SC/PR aged 34 yrs B.E working in Public sector bank as Manager Rs 1 Lac PM 1st Marriage seeks compatible employed groom Ct: 89036 70160

HINDU / SC / PR aged 36yrs B.Tech SWE in Chennai Rs.1 Lac PM 1st marriage seeks compatible employed groom Ct: 89036 70160

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 29yrs BE MS working software 1.5Lp/m well educated family 9841329471/ 9380791999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 35yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 30/ Good Looking B.E,MS (USA)., Data scientist, Hyd, Well settled Family, seeks groom Eng/Doct – Bang/Hyd – 8925019776

VANNIYAR, BDS, 33, Revathi, Employed, middle class family, Groom from same community needed. 98409 61251

HINDU SC Ad/29yrs. M. S.(Aeronautical Engineering) Working in Italy Rs.1,60,000/– P.M. INR.Fair Girl/ Seeks Suitable Qualified & Employed Groom /Caste No Bar /Well Educated Family Background in Chennai/Abroad Ok Contact No.9444477188 / 7397674481

TAMIL

ALLIANCE INVITED for a Well–Educated, Professionally Settled Brahmin Iyengar (Vadakalai) Girl , 44 Currently in Australia. Short Marriage with No Issues. Cultured, Family–Oriented, Emotionally Mature, and Values Tradition Along with a Modern Outlook. Professionally Established, Independent, and Believes in Mutual Respect, Companionship, and Shared Values in Marriage.Seeking a Suitable Alliance From Groom Well–Educated, Professionally Settled Brahmin Iyengar, with Good Family Values and a Progressive Mindset. Serious and Genuine Inquiries Only.Email–goda108@zohomail.com.au

Require Groom
for (40yr-divorcee) very fair and beautiful, highly placed with **MNC Software Professional** (presently living Abroad) Seeks Affectionate Cheerful, Enthusiastic Well Employed Groom.
CONTACT
9843110021/9344829680

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
VELLALAR PILLAI, Doctor (MBBS) Bride, US Citizen, age 24, height 152 cm, Poosam, Kataka Rasi, currently preparing to join the Residency program in the US, is looking for suitable Doctor bridegroom preferably from VELLALA community living in the US.
Text to Whatsapp no: 94481 16931

DIVORCEE

SMART 51YRS divorcee,Issueless, high salary seeks partner w/o issues,caste no bar,No demands. Ct:9841672014

BALIJA NAIDU 46/183 Fair, handsome MS(USA) based entrepreneur from Chennai, divorcee No issues seeks compatible bride. Whatsapp: 8056144909

MENON, 43/175 cm, Engineer and Academic professional, based in Mohali seeks a suitable alliance. WhatsApp:+91–8281312832

DIVORCE 43, Hindu Govt Gazetted officer, seeks suitable educated bride caste no bar Ct: 63808 39406

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 38, 171cm, progressive US–based professional at global MNC. Seeks educated, compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

38 DIVORCEE (no issue), 43LPA, IIT, Mumbai, Bengali,Brahmin, 6ft 1, Doctor preferred, ct 9634266197

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 28/165 Beautiful, MBBS MD, Kauvery Hospital, 2000000 PA, Affluent, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GROOM WANTED Cast No Bar 27 years, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family in Chennai Contact: 6385293227

Hindu Tamil AD 27, MA (Eng), Ph.D., Asst. Prof., Chennai, seeks suitable-groom.CNB.9444441495, 7904040791

MD(S) 30 Divorcee Short Lived for A month Fair Slim Seeks never Married/ Divorcee CNB below 35. 9884318582

TELUGU

44 Yrs /165cm/SWE/Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar, seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 30yrs, Divorce, MBA,well educated background in Chennai. Contact: 9962791888

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 28yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Rich and Affluent family in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU 28/169 Fair Beautiful, MBBS MD, Apollo Hospitals, 2200000 PA, Affluent, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 1994 born, 164 cm, B.Tech, never married, working in PSU Bank, Mumbai. Well–educated family from UP; father retired Addl. Director.Seeks suitable match. #9461179587

SMU 32/167 bride MBBS MD, Chennai seeks Doctor/Engineer groom from good family. Whatsapp/Ct:9585547701

Dip in share of Central funds adds to State's fiscal pressure

MTFP shows the share of Central transfers in the State's resource envelope reduced from 32.1% in 2017-18 to 25.1% in 2026-27

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The share of Central transfers – including tax devolution, Central grants and funding for Centrally-sponsored schemes – in Karnataka's revenue receipts is coming down significantly.

Data part of Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP), presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as part of the 2026-27 Budget documents on Friday, shows the share of Central transfers in the State's resource envelope reduced from 32.1% in 2017-18 to 25.1% in 2026-27, a big drop of 21.8%. During the same period, the share of State's own revenues in the resource envelope increased from 67.9% to 74.9%.

The MTFP further shows for the year 2023-24, Karnataka's revenue had only 24.3% from Central transfers even as the All India Average for States that year was 43.4%. Data shows the trend has been the same even when BJP was in power in the State.

16th FC relief

The decreasing share of Central transfers to the State is despite the 16th Finance Commission Report providing some solace revising the State's share in the tax pool from 3.64% to 4.13%. However, this is still lower than the recommendation of the 14th FC, which pegged the State's share at 4.71%.

While this shows that over the last decade State's Own Revenue has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 11%, "reflecting sustained economic growth, improved tax buoyancy and strengthened revenue mobilisation efforts".

Mr. Siddaramaiah and several opposition-ruled State governments in the South India have been consistently arguing that the BJP-led NDA regime in Delhi has been showing a "step-motherly treatment" to these States. Congress MLAs in the State had held a protest against the Union Government in Delhi, led by the Chief Minister himself, in February 2024.

A combination of factors and changes in centrally sponsored schemes are also adding further fiscal pressure on the State.

For instance, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday pointed out that under the new The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB–G RAM G) Act, 2025, the share of Centre and State has been fixed at 60:40, down from 90:10 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, that it replaces. It imposes an additional burden of approximately ₹2,000 crore on the State, he said.

Delay in releases

Delays and shortfalls in the release of Central funds under Centrally sponsored schemes have imposed significant cash-flow pressures on the State, the MTFP said. The Chief Minister pointed out in his Budget speech on Friday that the Centre had an outstanding of ₹19,102 crore for works taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme in Karnataka and it did not release any funds in 2025-26. Grants amounting to ₹15,500 crore have been released additionally by the State government in the interest of this scheme, he said.

State top-up

Further, the lack of periodic revision of unit costs has led to a growing incidence of State having to increase funding for Centrally-sponsored schemes through a top-up, particularly in respect of honorariums and incentives for frontline workers.

Central contributions towards these honorariums have remained unchanged for extended periods despite rising living costs and expanded responsibilities, the MTFP says. As a result, the State ends up having to fund ₹1,917 crore. The State top-up is often done in response to protests by frontline workers demanding revision of pay.

Social security coverage

Likewise, expenditure pressures have intensified due to the expansion of social security coverage and the limited extent of Central cost-sharing in key pension schemes, MTFP points out. Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), the Centre currently supports only 14.14 lakh beneficiaries in Karnataka, while the State covers an additional 80.31 lakh beneficiaries. As per the Revised Estimates of 2025-26, the social security pension expenditure is pegged at ₹10,668 crore, of which the Centre is only giving around 6% of the bill, ₹639 crore, data shows.

"The limited coverage and stagnant quantum of Central support under social security and related schemes have substantially shifted the fiscal responsibility to the State, underscoring the need to expand NSAP coverage to at least 50% of beneficiaries and enhance the Central contribution to reduce recurrent fiscal pressures," the MTFP argues.

Composition of State's revenue receipts

	2017-18	2026-27	2023-24 Karnataka	2023-24 All-India Average
Central transfers	32.1%	25.1%	24.3%	43.4%
State's own revenues	67.9%	74.9%	75.7%	56.6%

21.8% Drop in Central transfers between 2017-18 and 2026-27

How the State pitches in (in ₹ crore)

Category	No. of workers	Honorarium per month	Central share	State share	State top-up
ASHA workers	42,524	8,000	102	306	306
Anganwadi workers	65,933	12,000	214	736	593
Anganwadi helpers	65,933	7,000	107	447	376
State anganwadi workers	3,988	12,000	0	57	57
State anganwadi helpers	3,988	7,000	0	33	33
Midday meal cooks	46,617	4,700	34	191	207
Midday meal helpers	79,486	4,600	57	318	343
Total	3,08,469	55,300	513	2,089	1,917

KARNATAKA BUDGET 2026-2027

Subsidies bill goes up by over ₹9,200 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The subsidies bill of Karnataka has gone up by a whopping ₹9,200 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) for the year 2026-27 compared to BE 2025-26.

Budget documents issued by the State government on Friday shows it went up from ₹93,943.20 crore in BE 2025-26 to ₹1,03,143.77 crore in BE 2026-27. This even as the five guarantees bill, pegged at ₹51,286 crore, is almost same as the previous two years, indicating the subsidy bill being driven up north because of other schemes. The rise is driven by Energy, Finance, Revenue, Transport and Agriculture and Horticulture Departments.

The Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) Report tabled on Friday attributes this rise to "both expansion in beneficiary coverage and upward revision of benefit levels under major welfare schemes".

"While such expenditures advance important equity and social objectives, they also place sustained pressure on the revenue account by increasing the share of committed expenditure," it cautions.

It further quotes 16th Finance Commission Report, which it said "cautions that rising subsidy outlays, if not periodically assessed, can constrain fiscal space and affect expenditure quality. The Commission underscores the need for improved transparency in accounting, sharper beneficiary targeting, outcome-based evaluation, and avoidance of open-ended commitments".

MTFP recommends "structured review mechanisms, improved targeting through technology, and clearly defined reassessment or sunset provisions can help preserve fiscal balance while continuing to support vulnerable sections".

Subsidy (In ₹ crore)

Department	Subsidy BE 2025-26	Subsidy BE 2026-27	Increase
Total	93,943.20	1,03,143.77	9,200.57
Agriculture and Horticulture	3,657.69	4,637.09	979.4
Finance	0.55	1,900.57	1,900.02
Home and Transport	6,018.64	6,949.61	930.97
Revenue	1,1040.00	12,075.96	1,035.96
Energy	26,146	29,893	3,747

Tariff impact

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that while international trade negotiations are inherently complex and must balance strategic national interests, it is important that the perspectives of globally integrated States such as Karnataka are meaningfully factored into the formulation of trade policy. "in a true spirit of cooperative federalism."

From Page One

Shivakumar to leave for Delhi today

Interestingly, Mr. Shivakumar has said nothing about the State Budget presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah on Friday. A few days ago, he had said he did not need the State Budget to carry out developmental works in the Bengaluru South district. "There is no need to have expectations from the Budget. With or without the Budget, we are doing our work," he said.

In another development, Mr. Shivakumar is expected to host a dinner meeting of all MLAs and MLCs of the Congress on March 10 to mark the completion of six years as KPCC president. Mr. Siddaramaiah is also expected to be invited to the dinner, sources said.

Debt repayment grows by over 33% compared to last year: MTFP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Not only are net borrowings of Karnataka increasing year on year, one of the biggest criticisms of the Siddaramaiah-led Budgets this term by the Opposition BJP, but debt repayment seems to have grown at alarming levels, data shows.

While borrowings increased from ₹1,16,000 crore in 2025-26 to ₹1,32,000 crore in 2026-27, registering a growth of 13.8%, repayment has shot up from ₹26,474 crore last year to ₹35,316 crore this year, a whopping 33.4% growth, outpacing the growth of increase in debt by nearly 2.5 times. "This underscores the importance of maintaining a balanced debt maturity structure to avoid refinancing risks," the Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) said.

Why anomaly

This anomaly is mainly because the maturity distribution of market borrowings shows a concentration in the short to medium-term segments. MTFP data shows 32.7% of debts in the 0-5 years category and another 37.4% in the 5-10 years category, even as 24.6% are in the 10 to 15 years category and only 5.3% in the more than 15 years category. "To mitigate such risks, the borrowing strategy seeks to avoid bunching of repayments by spreading issuances across maturities", MTFP says.

Further to avoid the ballooning of debt servicing year on year, the State has now decided to maintain a ceiling of repayments in a particular year to 1% of its projected GSDP of that particular year, in order to reduce the rollover risk and even out the repayment profile, MTFP says.

"The steady rise in interest payments indicates the growing cost of debt servicing and reinforces the need for careful and efficient deployment of borrowed funds into productive capital assets that generate long-term economic returns," MTFP says.

Committed expenses

However, the fact that the State has been presenting revenue deficit budgets for four years now, indicates that debt is being deployed even to meet a part of committed expenditure as well.

Siddaramaiah rejects charges of excessive borrowing

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday rejected the Opposition charge that the State was borrowing excessively and said the debt burden was within the limits prescribed by the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Speaking to reporters at the helipad in Pillahalli village in Mysuru taluk, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Karnataka's debt stood at 24.94% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), which is within the permissible limit of 25% fixed in the Act.

He said Karnataka's GSDP stands at ₹33,05,500 crore. "Therefore, the BJP's allegation that the State government has borrowed excessively is far from the truth."

He justified the need to borrow to achieve development as long as the debt burden is within the limits.

Centre's debts

Referring to the borrowings by the Centre during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Union government's debt stood at ₹218 lakh crore, including the ₹165 crore borrowed during the last 11 years since Mr. Modi assumed office, and added that the country's liabilities amount to 55.6% under the provisions of the Act.

He said India's fiscal deficit is 4.4%, whereas Karnataka's fiscal deficit is 2.95%, which is within the 3% of GSDP limit prescribed by the law.

Reacting to BJP leader R. Ashok's criticism that the Budget benefits only one section of the society, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Budget had been prepared with a focus on social justice. "The Budget aims at the development of the entire State and seeks to provide equal opportunities to people from all sections of the society," he said.

If given opportunity

On whether he will be presenting the remaining two budgets of the government's term, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would if the party leadership gives him an opportunity. "The decision of the high command will be final. Breaking records is not an achievement, but if people bless me, I will certainly discharge the responsibility," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters at the helipad at Pillahalli in Mysuru taluk on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

₹4,291 crore earmarked to address regional imbalance

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Based on the recommendations of the Karnataka Regional Imbalance Redressal Committee headed by Prof. M. Govinda Rao, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has earmarked ₹4,291 crore in the State Budget presented on March 6.

In his Budget speech, Mr. Siddaramaiah mentioned that the government had accepted the committee's report in principle, and was committed to implementing the report in a phased manner from 2026-27.

The committee, in its report, has recommended additional financial allocation amounting to ₹43,914 crore for redressal of regional imbalance from 2026-27 to 2031-32. It has recommended major additional allocation to healthcare (₹11,770 crore), Irrigation (₹10,000 crore) and school education (₹7,840 crore), apart from other sectors. As per the report, 60% of the backward taluks are concentrated in north Karnataka.

However, in the Budget, the Chief Minister did not specify the allocation details as it still needs to be worked out.

The Govinda Rao-headed committee in its report has said that the proportion of backward taluks in the total number of taluks had increased from 65% in 2001-02 to 72.8% in 2022-23, indicating a widening of regional imbalances despite overall economic progress.

Experts have previously pointed out that successive governments have the habit of highlighting even usual development projects in backward regions as being part of special development projects, and it has been seen in the case of Kalyana Karnataka projects, where additional funds were not allocated.

Instead those projects were routed through Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB), thereby utilising funds allocated to the board. In the present Budget, several projects in Kalyana Karnataka region are being routed through KKRDB.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE NALGONDA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

RFP Notice No. E1/354/C&D Waste Unit/RFP/NMC/NLG/2025-26, Dt: 09.03.2026

Name of the Work: RFP for Selection of Concessionaire for Establishment of Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Plant of 60 TPD capacity with Operation and Maintenance for 10 years in Nalgonda Municipal Corporation Cluster (10 ULBs).

Bid Document Download Start Date	Dt: 09.03.2026
Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting	Dt: 10.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM in the O/o. Nalgonda Municipal Corporation.
Last Date for receiving queries	Dt: 11.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM
Response to queries	Dt: 13.03.2026 at 11.00 AM
Bid Submission Start Date	Dt: 13.03.2026 from 1.00 PM onwards
Last Date for receipt of Bids	Dt: 23.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM
Opening of Technical Bids	Dt: 23.03.2026 up to 4.30 PM

Note: Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place @ **www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in**
Sd/- **Commissioner,**
DIPR R.O.No.16623-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 07.03.2026 Nalgonda Municipal Corporation

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SEDAM.
Near State Bank of India, Sedam-585222, Dist : Kalaburagi, State : Karnataka,
WebSite: www.sedamtown.mrc.gov.in Phone: 08441-277912-276932

NO:CMC-SEDAM/MF/2025-26 Date: 09.03.2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

The Municipal Commissioner CMC Sedam, Dist-Kalaburagi, Karnataka Invites Tenders Under Municipal Fund -2025-26 Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPP Portal as per the KTPP Act 2000 from Eligible Registered contractors

1) Works/Goods/Service Details: 1) DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55019-Others, 2) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55021- Others, 3) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55029-Others, 4) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55039-Category-II(A), 5) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55042-Category-II(A), 6) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55075-Others, 7) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55200- Category- Sc, 8) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55234- Others

2) Head of Account : **Municipal Fund – 2025-26**, 3) Works/Goods/Service Estimated Cost : **Rs. 80.27 to 100.00 Lakhs**, 4) Contractors/Agency/Suppliers Edibility: Eligible Registered contractors, 5) Works/Goods/Service Tender Cost: **Rs. 80.27 to 100.00 Lakhs**, 6) Last date for applying the tender: **24.03.2026 Evening 17.00 Hours**, 7) Tenders Opening Date : **26.03.2026 Morning 11.00 Hours, (Financial Bid Opening As per kpp portal)**, 8) Office Address and Contact Details: City Municipal Council Sedam- 7892152625

ಷರತ್ತು : ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಗನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬಿಲ್ಲು ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1150/KSMC&A/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With great sadness, we announce the passing of

S RAMANATHAN (IAS Retd.)
16 January 1928 - 7 March 2026

A gentleman of great strength, wit, curiosity, and wisdom, whose love of life and for all of us was constant.
He had a sterling reputation in the civil service as a builder of institutions and as a model citizen with rare qualities of head and heart. Now reunited with his beloved wife, his journey continues in peace.

Remembered with love and gratitude by
Sandhya, Sangeetha, Raj, and all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral at Harishchandra Ghat Crematorium, Monday, 9 March, 4pm.

BIRTH CENTENARY

BIRTH CENTENARY

Shri. V. MURUGESAN, M.A.
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR OF COOP. SOCIETIES (Retd.)
Born on: 08.03.1926
Expired on: 13.01.1996
Your memories give us strength. May your blessings stay with us, year after year.
-With Reverence Family Members

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Fifteenth Anniversary

15-9-1938 - 8-3-2011
K.S.L. NARASIMHAN
Deputy General Manager (Retd. HDFC Ltd.)
Life is not same without you
As days go by, we miss you more & more
Family Members, Relatives & Friends

Poll pitch: Rahul Gandhi speaks at the conclusion of the rally *Puthuyuga Yatra* in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. A. JAYAMOHAN

Ahead of Assembly polls in Kerala, Rahul offers five guarantees

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday set the tone for the upcoming Assembly election battle in Kerala by announcing five basic welfare guarantees to the people if the United Democratic Front (UDF) were to come to power.

Addressing a packed audience at the conclusion of the *Puthuyuga Yatra* on the Putharikandam Maidan in Thiruvananthapuram, a month-long rally across the State by Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, Mr. Gandhi said these guarantees were aimed at giving a social security cover for the people, especially women and youth.

Mr. Gandhi announced that monthly welfare pensions for the marginalised sections of society would be raised to ₹3,000. The second major announcement was a health insurance scheme that will be named after former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, which will guarantee a medical insurance cover of up to ₹25 lakh for a family. This scheme will ensure that all marginalised families will have access to quality health care.

He announced free travel for women on buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation and college-going girls will be given a monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000. He promised that a dedicated department would be set up for the welfare of senior citizens.

Young entrepreneurs will be given an interest-free loan of up to ₹5 lakh to set up new businesses, he added.

Mr. Gandhi said a key question thrown at him during his interactions with technocrats in the State earlier in the day was about politicians being the recipients of freebies. He added that it was time that instead of politicians, the poorest were given priority and adequate social security. This was the genesis of the welfare guarantees, he added.

Enrolment on voters' list open till last date of nomination: CEC

Eligible voters excluded from the list after SIR can give their application in Form 6; complaints on wrong inclusion can be challenged in Form 7

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Gyanesh Kumar felicitates a 96-year-old voter during an interaction with officials and presspersons in Kochi on Saturday. THULASI KAKKAT

Eligible voters who have been excluded from the voters' list following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Kerala can be enrolled as voters till the last date of filing of nominations for the Assembly election, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar said on Saturday.

Speaking to presspersons in Kochi, Mr. Kumar said such persons shall submit the application in Form 6 (the form for enrolling new voters) of the Election Commission of India (EC), along with relevant documents.

Any complaints regarding wrong inclusion of voters on the list can be challenged by submitting applications in Form 7, which is the "application for objecting inclusion of name of other person/ seeking deletion of own name/ seeking deletion of any other person's name in electoral roll due to death/ shifting".

Complaints over wrong allocation of polling booths shall be filed using Form 8, which is meant for "correction to particulars entered in electoral roll", he said.

'Transparent exercise'

Mr. Kumar said the list of persons excluded from the SIR following the booth-level screening was provided earlier to the booth-level agents of political parties.

He reiterated that SIR was conducted transparently, by including all eligible voters and excluding ineligible voters from the electoral list.

Action on complaints regarding hate speeches and violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will be initiated within 100 hours of receiving the complaints posted in cVIGIL – a mobile application developed by the commission for citizens to report violations of the MCC in real-time.

The commission has plans to introduce web-casting in all the polling stations of Kerala.

Mobile deposit facility

Besides infrastructure facilities for helping people cast their votes, including ramps and drinking water facilities, a mobile phone deposit facility will also be set up at the polling stations, he said.

Mr. Kumar further added that the date of the Kerala Assembly election will be announced by the commission "in due course."

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi and Chief Electoral Officer of Kerala Rathan U. Kelkar were present at the briefing.

78 bonded labourers, including 21 children, rescued in Tiruvallur dist.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A total of 78 bonded labourers, including 21 children, were rescued from a brick kiln in Tiruvallur district during an inspection by district authorities.

Native of Odisha

Officials said the rescued persons included 32 men, 25 women, 10 boys and 11 girls.

All the labourers are from Bolangir district of Odisha, and had been working at the kiln since January.

According to officials, the kiln owner had reportedly paid an advance of ₹30,000 to ₹35,000 per person to bring them to work at the site.

Promise not fulfilled

A survivor said the owner had promised to pay ₹500 per week to a family of two and provide essentials such as rice and dal, but these assurances were not fulfilled.

She also alleged that there were no proper drinking water or toilet facilities at the site.

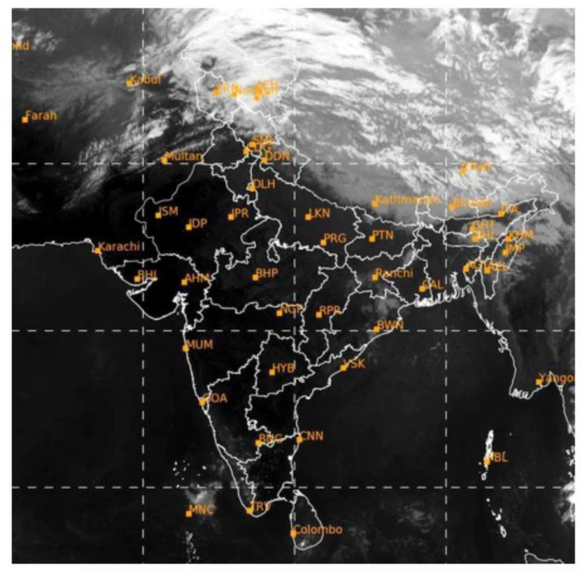
Unregistered

Officials said the brick kiln is reportedly unregistered. The rescued workers have been temporarily housed at the Government Primary School in Rettambedu.

Further action is under way, and arrangements are being made for their rehabilitation.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Vidarbha. Hot and humid weather very likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.4	20.4	Kozhikode	—	35.8	27.1
Ahmedabad	—	37.6	20.0	Kurnool	—	39.4	22.5
Aizawl	—	31.1	18.4	Lucknow	—	33.1	19.2
Allahabad	—	34.4	19.4	Madurai	—	38.5	21.5
Bengaluru	—	34.3	21.9	Mangaluru	—	32.5	24.9
Bhopal	—	35.2	15.2	Mumbai	—	33.0	22.9
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	24.0	Mysuru	—	33.4	20.0
Chandigarh	—	32.7	18.5	New Delhi	—	35.7	17.4
Chennai	—	34.9	23.5	Patna	—	33.2	21.8
Coimbatore	—	35.7	23.4	Port Blair	—	30.1	22.4
Dehradun	—	31.5	17.8	Puducherry	—	32.5	23.1
Gangtok	—	16.6	13.9	Pune	—	38.5	20.7
Goa	—	33.0	24.8	Raipur	—	36.7	22.2
Guwahati	—	34.5	18.6	Ranchi	—	31.8	18.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	19.0	Shillong	—	22.2	12.0
Hyderabad	—	36.8	20.6	Shimla	—	25.7	15.2
Imphal	—	30.5	16.8	Srinagar	—	21.2	10.5
Jaipur	—	36.2	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	25.6
Kochi	—	31.0	26.8	Tiruchi	—	38.1	22.4
Kohima	—	19.4	10.2	Vijayawada	—	35.6	23.5
Kolkata	—	32.0	23.4	Visakhapatnam	—	31.9	25.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.55	159	40	108	140	
Bengaluru	4	22	38	218	247	
Chennai	.16	11	35	122	86	
Delhi	.32	87	50	274	309	
Hyderabad	6	10	43	115	130	
Kolkata	5	14	22	84	103	
Lucknow	.14	40	35	213	165	
Mumbai	6	68	4	62	103	
Pune	—	53	47	240	209	
Visakhapatnam	.31	81	16	137	148	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 322 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 33

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**

e-TENDER NOTICE Date:07.03.2026

Tender Notice No.: **KRIDE/DL/EL/YPRCSDR/BAND/2026**
Tender ID: **2026_KRIDE_269963_1**
"YPR-CSDR Doubling: Internal Electrification of Banaswadi station building, provision of lighting arrangements for open and covered platforms at Banaswadi station and any other associated works."
Last date for submission of bids is **07.04.2026, IST 15:00 Hrs,** for details visit **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE**
DIPR/CP/6081/Zen/2025-26
KridePrm | Kride Bsrp | kride_bsrp | KRIDE,BSRP

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)
AMARAVATI, Rayapudi, Thullur Mandal, Amaravati-522237 (A.P.)
E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. MAU61-USI0HB(OTH)/69/2026-IFRMAU61 Dt. 07.03.2026.
Name of Work: "APCRDA-Housing & Buildings -AGC Buildings -District Cooling Plant - Development of District Cooling System for Amaravati Government Complex in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on PPP Basis" The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 11.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 26.03.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 26.03.2026 @16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **https://crda.ap.gov.in** Sd/- Commissioner, **APCRDA,** Rayapudi

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Autonomous Institution)
Phone : 08272 298220 Website : www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
No. DME/2025-26/SE0676 **Date: 06-03-2026**
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Under signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in GOK, for the **Providing Catering Services (Prepared Diet Food) for In-patients for One (01) Year at** KoIMS Teaching Hospital Madikeri last date for upload is 06-04-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Director and Dean
KoIMS, Madikeri

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर
क्रमांक-ACE/NIT/2025-26/D-769 दिनांक : 27/2/2026
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-24 / पीएमजीएसवाई / 2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमन्त्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अन्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण कार्य के कुल 1 पैकेज के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए्ए, ए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा की कुल लागत (जी.एस.टी. सहित)	:	रु. 655.21 लाख
ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख	:	05.03.2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 16.03.2026 दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की अन्तिम तारीख	:	16.03.2026 दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	:	16.03.2026 सायं 3:00 बजे से

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
NIB Code:- PWD2526A5955
UBN:- PWD2526WLOB24757
(डी. के. विश्वकर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग-प्रथम उदयपुर
DIPR/C/4749/2026

Office of the SE WDSC Distcrict Dausa
File No.: (19)/WCDC/DAU/MJSA 2.2/2025-26/3284 Date: 27.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for NRM works under MJSA 2.0 Phase-II in Block Lalsot & Baswa District Dausa of estimated value INR of Projects as per below table are invited from interested bidders up to 10.03.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (**https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/**) of the state and **https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in** website.

S. No.	NIT No.	NIB No.	Name of Block	Estimated Value	UBN No.
1	22/2025-26	WSC2526A1813	Lalsot	15830000/-	WSC2526WSOB03105
2	23/2025-26	WSC2526A1814	Baswa	14784000/-	WSC2526WSOB03106

(हरिकेश मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता जलग्रहण विकास एवं भू-संरक्षण विभाग जिला दौसा
DIPR/C/4769/2026

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
ABRIDGED NIeT
Planning & Development Department
Notice inviting e-tenders
The **Director General, P&D Department, KMC** invites online e-tender on Turnkey basis from experienced firms / companies / individual contractors / Joint Ventures, who have successfully completed the work of similar nature of works within last 5 (five) years from the date of publication of this NIT in any Govt./Semi-Govt./Govt. Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies (constituted under the State/Central Statue) / Statutory Bodies and Local Bodies is eligible for the following work:
NIT No.: KMC/D.G.(P_D)/C/092/2025-26
Name of work : **Augmentation & Strengthening of Garden Reach Water Works including Design, Construction, Commissioning with Mandatory O&M of 40 MGD WTP at GRWW Campus and Allied Infrastructures under the command zone of GRWW within KMC.** Estimated Value: **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder.** Earnest Money : **Rs. 10,00,000.00**. Period of Completion : **42 (Forty Two) Months for Capital Works and 5 years Mandatory Operation & Maintenance period.** Pre-bid meeting date & location: **23.03.2026, 1 p.m.** Place: O/o D.G (P&D), KMC 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kol-87. Bid submission start date (online) on **28.03.2026** at **1 p.m.** Last date and time of submission of bid: **28.04.2026** at **1 p.m.** Bid opening date for technical proposals (online): **30.04.2026** at **1 p.m.** The tender details are available on and from **13.03.2026** at **1 p.m.** in the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
2371/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(55E/46E): 2025-26:JE-1 **Dated: 06.03.2026**
TENDER NOTIFICATION/ SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal) /2nd Call/3rd Call
The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 33250 **under the Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132–Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited – under Capital Expenditure.** The Last date for reciept of tender:**16.03.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**
Inviting Tender for 2nd call Indent No. 32069 and **3rd Call** for Indent No. 32072 under the Head Of Account : CMIDP. **Last date for reciept of tender: 16.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**
In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.100.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 110.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document-KW-3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1713/25-26 dt.07.03.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

THE HINDU GROUP

MORNING JOGS ARE AN ACT OF BRAVERY.

For men, it's just a routine.
For women, it's a risk assessment.
Freedom was never meant to come with contingency plans.
Yet millions of women carry one - every single day.
Until the ordinary stops feeling dangerous, freedom is just a word.

THE HINDU
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

From Page One

Iran vows not to attack West Asian neighbours

On Friday, Mr. Trump had ruled out a deal with Iran's leadership and demanded "unconditional surrender". Mr. Pezeshkian insisted this would never happen. "The enemies will take the dream of Iran's surrender to their grave," he said, as per a translation of the speech in the state media.

Later, the Iranian President wrote a series of social media posts defending Iran's military response. "We stand firm to the last breath in defence of our country and resist. Iran's defensive operations are exclusively against targets and facilities that are the origin and source of aggressive actions against the Iranian nation, and we consider them legitimate targets," he said.

On Saturday, Mr. Trump claimed that Iran was "being beaten to hell" and has "surrendered" and promised not to attack its neighbours. "This promise was only made because of the relentless U.S. and Israeli attack. They were looking to take over and rule the Middle East. It is the first time that Iran has ever lost, in thousands of years, to surrounding Middle Eastern Countries," he wrote in a social media post.

The U.S. Central Command said that U.S. forces have struck over 3,000 targets in the first week of Operation Epic Fury, adding that "we are not slowing down".

Continuing strikes

Neither side signalled any sign of de-escalation, even as attacks and counter-attacks continued throughout the day. The Israeli Defence Forces claimed to have destroyed at least 16 Quds Force planes in strikes. Iran fired waves of missiles targeting central Israel, but Israel has reported that there were no injuries.

An Iranian Army spokesperson said on Saturday, "220 American soldiers and commanders have been killed or wounded and significant damage has been inflicted on American assets in the region in retaliatory attacks by the Iranian Armed Forces over the past 24 hours." The Revolutionary Guards also said they had targeted a Marshal Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Persian Gulf waters.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused the U.S. of attacking a freshwater desalination plant on Qeshm Island. "Water supply in 30 villages has been impacted. Attacking Iran's infrastructure is a dangerous move with grave consequences. The U.S. set this precedent, not Iran," he said.

Dubai's main airport was forced to briefly close on Saturday as Iran again launched missiles and drones at targets across the Gulf.

Amid West Asia crisis, cooking gas price raised

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Centre had failed to shield citizens from rising prices, and alleged that the benefits of earlier declines in global crude prices were never passed on to them. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for protests on Sunday, and expressed concern over the "unavailability" of gas cylinders.

The latest increase takes the price of commercial cylinders in Delhi to ₹1,883. This follows a ₹28 increase on March 1, pushing the cumulative rise in commercial LPG rates this year to ₹302.50. Non-subsidised LPG – used by most households – will now cost ₹913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi, up from ₹853 earlier, according to the Indian Oil Corporation website. The hike, comes as global oil prices surge following disruptions in West Asia.

Government sources said the increase had become necessary because of a spike in global energy prices. Even after revision, they said, the domestic LPG price remained lower than the ₹1,050 per cylinder required to break even on costs.

No immediate petrol-diesel price hike

Official sources also stressed that petrol and diesel prices were unlikely to be increased immediately. State-owned oil marketing companies had recorded strong profits earlier this year and had the financial capacity to absorb fluctuations in crude prices, they said.

India relies heavily on imports routed through the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly half of its crude oil imports and about 40% of its natural gas shipments pass through the narrow waterway. Amid concerns over supply disruptions, the government has invoked emergency powers to direct domestic oil refineries to ramp up LPG production to augment supplies.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh and Shiv Sahay Singh)

'Hosted second Iran ship as humanitarian gesture'

Iranian warship *IRIS Dena* that was blown up by U.S. got caught on the wrong side of events, says Jaishankar; he adds that letting *IRIS Lavan* to dock in Kochi on March 4 was the 'right thing' to do

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar speaks during an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue 2026, in New Delhi. PTI

Three days after the U.S. sunk Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena* off Sri Lanka, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday that the frigate found itself on the "wrong side of events" and that Indian authorities gave permission to another Iranian ship (*IRIS Lavan*) to dock at Kochi on March 4 as a "humanitarian" gesture.

Mr. Jaishankar's comments at the Raisina Dialogue here came against the backdrop of social media chatter about the drowning of the Iranian frigate, which was returning after attending the MILAN 2026 exercise, conducted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam in February. Apart from *IRIS Dena*, two other Iranian ships - *IRIS Lavan* and *IRIS Bushehr* - participated in the exercise.

"Here's the situation. We got a message from the Iranian side that one of the ships [*IRIS Lavan*], which presumably was closest to our waters at that point of time, wanted to come into our port. They were reporting that they were having problems. On the first of March, we said you can come in. It took them a few days to sail in and then they docked in Kochi. People of the ship were a lot of young cadets. They have disembarked and are now in a nearby facility," Mr. Jaishankar said.

"We approached the situation from the point of view of humanity, other than whatever the legal issues were, and I think we did the right thing," Mr. Jaishankar further said.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, who also participated in the same segment in the Raisina Dialogue, said his government's response to the *IRIS Dena* episode was in sync with international law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). "We have taken all steps according to the international laws," Mr. Herath said reiterating that Sri Lanka also acted in keeping with the humanitarian requirements.

Referring to the blowing up of *IRIS Dena* off the coast of Galle, Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Jaishnakar said, "They were coming in for a fleet review, and then they got in a way caught on the wrong side of events," he added.

Among those who spoke out on social media after the U.S. torpedoed *IRIS Dena* was former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal who said: "A word of condolence by the Indian Navy (after political clearance) at the loss of lives of those who were our invitees and saluted our president would be in order."

Responding to the social media discussion, Mr. Jaishankar said: "There are a lot of social media debates going on over this. Please understand the reality of the Indian Ocean. Diego Garcia [a U.S. military base] has been in the Indian Ocean for the last five decades. The fact that there are foreign forces based in Djibouti happened in the early first decade of this century. Hambantota [port in Sri Lanka] came up during this period."

Security curbs and Internet restrictions lifted in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

People shop for household items after authorities lifted restrictions on Saturday. PTI

Security curbs and mobile Internet speed restrictions were lifted on Saturday in Kashmir, allowing normal life to resume after six days of unrest in the wake of the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Director-General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat called for intensification of crackdown on anti-nationals and operations against terrorists in south Kashmir.

Markets and business offices reopened in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which turned into a major protest site against the United States and Israel on March 1. Concertina wires placed on roads and interior lanes in parts of Srinagar city, Budgam and Baramulla were also removed, allowing vehicular traffic to ply smoothly on the roads.

Rallies marred Kashmir in the past six days when hundreds of pro-Iran demonstrators took to the streets.

Locals said Internet speed, which was reduced to 2G level, and prepaid mobile calling were also restored, bringing them relief.

The DGP reviewed the security landscape, counter-terrorism operations, and overall law and order situation in south Kashmir's Pulwama, Awantipora and Shopian.

In Pulwama, the DGP directed police personnel to "maintain sustained pressure on anti-national elements". In Shopian, the DGP took stock of the security situation and counter-terrorism measures. "Remain vigilant and continue sustained operations against terrorist elements and their support networks," he said.

₹1,085-cr. loan fraud: CBI lodges fresh case against RCom, Anil

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Anil Ambani

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a fresh case against Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom), its erstwhile directors Anil Ambani and Manjari Ashok Kacker, and unknown others, in connection with an alleged ₹1,085-crore bank loan fraud.

According to the first information report (FIR) dated March 5, they have been accused of cheating Punjab National Bank (PNB) and the erstwhile United Bank of India (since merged with PNB) during April 2023 and March 2017, causing a loss of over ₹1,085 crore to the banks.

As alleged, the company failed to maintain financial discipline, diverted funds, and violated the terms and conditions of sanction. The loan account became irregular and was classified as a non-performing asset (NPA) in June 2017. The complaint lodged by the bank flagged alleged diversion of funds through payments to related parties.

This is the third CBI case involving RCom. On February 24, the agency had instituted a second case against the company, Mr. Ambani, and others for allegedly cheating Bank of Baroda (BoB) to the tune of ₹2,220 crore.

It was alleged that the loan funds were diverted through fictitious transactions with related entities and RCom's books of accounts were manipulated and irregularities concealed. BoB's loan account was declared NPA in 2017 itself, the agency said. However, there was a stay on the declaration of the accounts as a fraud by the Bombay High Court. The stay was vacated on February 23, after which the bank filed the complaint with the CBI.

The first case against RCom was based on a complaint from the State Bank of India, the lead bank of a consortium comprising 11 banks. The BoB was not a part of that group.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing the alleged money-laundering angle. It has so far attached assets worth over ₹15,700 crore pertaining to the Reliance (Anil Ambani) Group. RCom and its group companies have a total of ₹40,185 crore as outstanding loans, the ED alleged.

Govt. committed to driving out all intruders from the country: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami at a public gathering in Haridwar on Saturday. ANI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre was committed to driving out every "intruder" from the country, asserting that the process would extend "from Kedarnath to Kanniyakumari".

Addressing a public gathering in Haridwar to mark four years of the Uttarakhand government, Mr. Shah praised Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami for introducing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State and removing encroachments from nearly 10,000 acres of government land.

"Pushkar Singh Dhami became the first Chief Minister to bring the UCC in the State. Under the UCC, citizens, regardless of their religion, will be subject to the same law. The UCC will help stop the unnatural increase in demographics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to form a high-powered committee to address the demographic changes. That committee will begin its work within a few days. From Kedarnath to Kanniyakumari, we will work to expel every single intruder out of the country. Opposition leaders can protest as much as they want," he said.

Attacking Opposition parties for protesting against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Mr. Shah said the names of those who are not Indian citizens must be removed from the voter list, as a clean electoral roll is essential for safeguarding democracy.

Recalling the struggle of the people of Uttarakhand for statehood, Mr. Shah said that the dream came true only after the Atal Bihari Vajpayee came to power at the Centre and created new States, including Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh, which, he said, were now progressing rapidly.

He also highlighted major decisions of the Modi government, including the redevelopment of Kedarnath Temple and Badrinath Temples, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, and Mahakal Lok in Ujjain.

Mr. Shah said amendments to criminal laws made by the Centre would streamline the justice delivery system. By 2028, he said, the new framework would ensure that the time taken for a case – from registration of an FIR to the final verdict in the Supreme Court of India – would not exceed three years.

On CAA

Congratulating refugees who have received Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Union Minister said that Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains who came to India from Pakistan and Afghanistan had as much right over the country as Mr. Modi.

He said that "appeasement politics" had earlier denied them citizenship. He reiterated that the government remained committed to granting citizenship to such refugees despite opposition.

CBI initiates probe into BSF officers 'tampering records'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a first information report (FIR) against unknown Border Security Force (BSF) officers and others to probe allegations of record tampering that falsely implicated two constables of the paramilitary force in a 2008 smuggling case.

The agency filed the FIR following the directions of the Delhi High Court, which heard the petitions moved by the BSF constables, B. Venkataswamy and Tarsem Singh.

The petitioners submitted that they were on operational duty at the Dayarampur border post in West Bengal when they seized 75 bottles of Phensedyl cough syrup from a fleeing suspect on December 26, 2008, and reported it to their superior officers.

Falsely implicated

They alleged that certain superior officers, instead of taking appropriate legal action, falsely implicated them by tampering with official records to fabricate evidence, and the constables were accused of concealing and smuggling the contraband.

Based on those reports, the petitioners were tried by a Summary Security Force Court, convicted under the BSF Act, and dismissed from service on May 5, 2009. Their appeal was rejected by the force's Appellate Authority.

In its order dated September 8, 2025, the High Court had said there was "sufficient material to reach a *prima facie* conclusion" that an in-depth probe was required into the matter. It observed that discrepancies and surrounding circumstances raised justifiable doubts about record tampering, noting that two *Roznamchas* (daily diary ledgers) for the same day and incident were presented in different proceedings.

Most-wanted gangster detained in Moldova, say Punjab Police

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Saturday claimed that Amritpal Singh, alias Amrit Dalam, a most-wanted gangster, had been detained in Moldova in eastern Europe in coordination with Central agencies.

Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said Amritpal, who is linked to the 'Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang', was wanted in multiple criminal cases in the State.

Mr. Yadav said Amritpal was detained at the Moldova border on the basis of an Interpol Red Notice, issued at the request of the Punjab Police in coordination with the External Affairs Ministry, Central Bureau of Investigation, and other Central agencies.

"Legal and diplomatic procedures are now under way to secure his extradition-deportation to India," he added.

Amritpal had escaped abroad using a fraudulent passport. He has been actively making extortion calls targeting individuals and business owners.

High Court acquits Dera chief Ram Rahim in 2002 journalist murder case

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has acquitted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim in the murder case of a journalist, in which he was serving a life sentence. He will, however, remain in prison, as he continues to serve time following his conviction in a separate rape case.

The Dera head was in 2019 convicted under Section 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), along with three others and sentenced to life imprisonment by a special Central Bureau of Investigation court for the murder of journalist Ramchander Chhatrapati in Haryana's Sirsa.

The case pertains to the murder of Chhatrapati in 2002 after he published an anonymous letter in his newspaper *Poora Sach* by a woman Dera follower, who accused Ram Rahim of rape. Chhatrapati was shot outside his house and died of his injuries.

The Bench dismissed the appeals of the two other accused. Another accused in the case passed away in 2024.

President slams Bengal govt. for 'protocol failure' at conference

Murmu expresses disappointment with Bengal govt. for changing venue of Santal Conference; PM describes development as 'shameful, unprecedented'; Mamata dismisses claims, says President should not 'engage in politics as per advice of BJP'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A major political controversy erupted in West Bengal on Saturday after President Droupadi Murmu expressed disappointment with the State government for changing the venue of the International Santal Conference in Darjeeling district and not adhering to the desired protocol to receive her at the event.

The State government had changed the venue of the conference attended by the President from Bidhannagar in Phansidewa block of Darjeeling district to Gossainpur in Bagdogra area located on the outskirts of Siliguri in the same district.

After attending the conference at Gossainpur, President Murmu travelled about 30 kilometres to Bidhannagar and expressed anguish over the change of venue and absence of Ministers of the State government to receive her.

President Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by Union Minister Durgadas Uikey upon her arrival at Bagdogra. X/@RASHTRAPATIBHVN

"They [government] had said this place [Bidhannagar] is congested you will not be able to go. But I think five lakh people could gather here easily. But I don't know why they took us there... I don't know what went through the administration's mind that they chose a place for the conference where the Santal people could not go... I am very sad that the people here were unable to reach the conference because it was held so far away," Ms. Murmu said.

The remarks by the President evoked strong reactions from leaders in constitutional positions.

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan criticised the State government over the treatment. "The office of the Hon'ble President is the highest constitutional office of our Republic and must always receive the dignity, protocol and respect it deserves," he said.

"Any lapse in arrangements befitting her constitutional position that happened in West Bengal today is unfortunate," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the development as "shameful and unprecedented". In a post on social media, Mr. Modi said the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal had crossed all limits.

'Unfortunate incident'

He said the anguish and concern expressed by the President, who is from the tribal community, had instilled profound sorrow in the hearts of the people of India. "It is also extremely unfortunate that the West Bengal government is treating such an important matter as Santhal culture so lightly...," Mr. Modi said.

President Murmu, while addressing the gathering, described West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as her "younger sister". "If the President visits a place, the Chief Minister and the Ministers should also come. But she did not... I am also a daughter of Bengal. Mamata *didi* (sister) is like my younger sister. I do not know why she is angry with me but I wish her well," Ms. Murmu said.

Commenting on the row, Ms. Banerjee said she was not aware of the President's event in Darjeeling. "I do not know who was organising the programme, who was attending the programme, who was funding the programme," she said, adding that she was on a dharna in Kolkata over the past two days.

"We respect you. You represent the number one chair in the country... Do not play politics at the time of elections as per the advice of the BJP," she said.

Later in the day, Ms. Banerjee took to social media and claimed that there was no breach of protocol by the State administration.

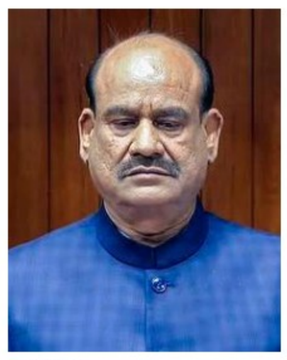
"Hon'ble President was received and seen off by Mayor Siliguri Municipal Corporation, DM Darjeeling and CP Siliguri Police Commissionerate strictly as per the approved line-up shared by the President's Secretariat. CM, West Bengal was not part of the line-up or the dais plan. No protocol lapse happened on part of district administration," she said.

Modi endorses Birla, days before LS takes up motion seeking Speaker's removal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two days before the Lok Sabha is set to take up an Opposition-led motion seeking his removal, Speaker Om Birla on Saturday got an endorsement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said Mr. Birla was fully dedicated to the Constitution and deeply committed to parliamentary traditions.

"Om Birla*ji* is not only an excellent Member of Parliament but also a remarkable Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He is fully dedicated to the Constitution and deeply committed to parliamentary traditions," Mr. Modi said at a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for an airport at Kota. Mr. Birla is the MP for Kota.



Om Birla

First order of business

When the Lok Sabha convenes on Monday for the second leg of the Budget Session, its first order of business is the debate on the motion of removal against the Speaker. The motion, backed by 118 Opposition MPs, cites grievances, including the suspension of members and restricted speaking opportunities. The Trinamool Congress, which had earlier said the motion should not be "rushed", has also extended support for it.

The Prime Minister, who addressed the Kota ceremony through videoconferencing, said Mr. Birla stands above party and Opposition, embodying neutrality.

"When I see him in the House, I often feel that perhaps coming from the city of education has influenced his role as Speaker. He leads like a good head of the family, taking everyone along. He respects the feelings and requests of all Members of Parliament," he said.

The Prime Minister said that Mr. Birla managed "everything with dignity, never insulting anyone, patiently enduring harsh words" even when "some arrogant and disruptive individuals occasionally create disturbances".

"...he manages everything with dignity, never insulting anyone, patiently enduring harsh words, and always smiling with warmth. Perhaps, that is one reason why he is universally admired in the House," Mr. Modi added.

BJP, Congress whips

Both BJP and Congress have issued whips to their members to be present in the House from March 9 to 11 when the Lok Sabha is set to debate the motion.

The Opposition had submitted the notice for a no-confidence motion against Mr. Birla on February 10 after he did not let Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi quote from, or speak about, the unpublished memoir former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retired).

'BJP should not keep quiet when U.S. insults the country by dictating to us'

Youth Congress chief says the shirtless protest during the AI summit was to object to the U.S. trade deal signed out of PM's 'personal compulsion'; says that protests will continue across the country, and in front of Parliament till the deal is reversed

INTERVIEW

Uday Bhanu Chib

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The dramatic shirtless protest by the Youth Congress during the recent India AI Impact Summit here created a political storm and resulted in the arrest of the Congress youth wing's chief Uday Bhanu Chib, who spoke about the rationale behind the protest. Mr. Chib was released on bail after spending eight days in prison. Edited excerpts:

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

What message were you trying to send through this form of shirtless protest, and do you believe it achieved its objective?

The shirtless protest by the Indian Youth Congress was not done for the first time in history. Such protests take place in several countries where democratic processes are followed. In India, too, we have seen such protests.

The Bharatiya Janata Party carried out such a protest during the 2010 Commonwealth Games, when athletes from all over the world were present. The only difference was that we had a liberal UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government then, which believed in the Constitution.

As far as our objective is concerned, we didn't go there for any personal reason. We were protesting against the India-U.S. trade deal that the Prime Minister has signed out of some personal compulsion. The U.S. Supreme Court has stayed the tariffs but we [India] rushed into the deal. It will affect our farmers, the textile industry, and also our most valuable asset, data.

How do you respond to the criticism that such demonstrations harm India's reputation globally? Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at the politics of 'naked' protests.

The Prime Minister's comments were very unfortunate. This was a peaceful protest and, if anything, it sends the message that the democratic process is still alive, and democracy hasn't been murdered. The country's image gets tarnished when the name of a Minister of the government or the Prime Minister finds mention in the Epstein files.

Our image gets tarnished when we sign a trade deal under some compulsion, [or] the U.S. gives us the permission to buy oil from Russia. I would like to tell the BJP that they shouldn't keep quiet when the U.S. insults us by dictating to us. That's what dents our global image.

It appears that even the top leadership of the Congress took time to back your protests as they either did not approve or were unaware of your plans. Is this correct?

Whenever we feel that some issue is going to affect the rights of our people, we protest. This was a routine protest, and nothing out of the box.

We routinely protest, and get detained and released. The party doesn't always have to take a stand.

The party may have taken time to comment as even we didn't expect it to be made this big [an issue]. It is the BJP that made it a big issue [of the shirtless protest], out of their nervousness. When the [Congress] party realised this, it fully backed us. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge*ji* and our leader Rahul Gandhi*ji* came out in our support.

Do you think your arrest reflects a shrinking space for political dissent? And were you surprised by the serious charges, including rioting, that have been pressed against your colleagues by the Delhi Police?

I am not surprised today. Owing to pressure, they [the Delhi Police] pressed every possible charge. The First Information Report talked about our being anti-national. I won't talk much as the matter is *sub judice*. But this was the AI summit with foreign delegations in attendance, and there would have been several cameras. It can be checked that this was a peaceful protest and our Constitution gives us that right.

Looking back at the events that led to your arrest, would you do anything differently?

Our intention was neither to disturb the AI summit nor generate negative reviews. The AI summit was like any other event of Modi*ji*'s be it 'Make in India' or demonetisation. Our intention was to protest against the trade deal, which is against farmers. And we will continue with our protests in different forms. Our real victory will be when this deal is reversed. We will continue with protests across the country, and in front of Parliament when the Budget session resumes.

Nearly a fortnight after death, Manipur MLA yet to be buried

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nearly a fortnight after the BJP's former Manipur MLA Vungzagin Valte died in a Gurugram hospital, due to medical complications from injuries caused by a mob attack in Imphal on May 4, 2023, his burial is yet to take place. Valte was attacked while leaving the Chief Minister's office just a day after ethnic violence broke out between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people.

His body is being preserved in a hospital, his son Joseph Valte told *The Hindu*. The Valte family and the community leaders of the Zomi tribe have listed several demands to be met before they are willing to perform the last rites for Valte. The Zomi Coordination Committee has been formed to press for these demands, which includes a NIA probe into the assault, and a political solution to the conflict.

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For application format, eligibility criteria, age, emoluments and terms & conditions visit our website : **www.niftem-t.ac.in**

REGISTRAR (i/c)

Samrat Choudhary, top prospect for next Bihar CM, to meet Shah

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is a top prospect among the BJP leaders vying to succeed Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister, is set to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in West Bengal on Sunday, according to party sources. They are likely to address a meeting together at Bagdogra.

On Friday, Mr. Kumar filed nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election. His departure from Patna triggered consternation even in the Opposition. Former Chief Minister and RJD leader Rabri Devi alleged on Saturday that "Mr. Nitish is being pushed out of Bihar by the BJP".

Within Mr. Kumar's own JD(U) as well, changes are afoot. His son Nishant Kumar, 50, who plans to formally join the JD(U) on Sunday, met party legislators on Saturday. He is said to have discussed party affairs and ground realities.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2025-26/39985-94 Date : 06/03/2026
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 756/2025-26
निम्नलिखित परियोजनाओं पर पथकर वसूली हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.)
Selection of Bidder for Collection of User Fee on the basis of competitive bidding through e-procurement basis for the following:-	
On Bari-Baseri-Bayana-Weir-Bhusawar-Chhonkarwara- Kherli Road for a period of 01 Year. **UBN: RRC2526SLOB01286**	1218.51 Lakh

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DIRECTOR

INBRIEF

Farooq slams U.S. waiver to India on Russian oil purchase

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday expressed dismay over the Centre's foreign policy and the U.S. announcing a "waiver" to India for importing Russian oil in the wake of the current crisis in West Asia. "India is a sovereign country. Our country does not need anyone's permission (to buy oil from Russia). No foreign country should dictate [terms to] New Delhi," Mr. Abdullah said. "The tragedy is that I don't know why they [the Centre] are making us dependent. It is a question of the independence of this country. This country has to decide what is good for it. Nobody else should decide our future," Mr. Abdullah said.

4 killed, 11 injured in blaze at 'gulal' unit in Haryana's Jind

Four women workers were killed while at least 11 people sustained injuries after a fire broke at a *gulal* (powdered colour) manufacturing unit in Haryana's Jind district on Saturday. The fire allegedly erupted at the entry point of the factory and thereafter smoke spread inside the factory. The factory is located in a residential area of Bhaat Colony in Safidon, Jind, the police said. Police and fire department personnel arrived at the scene, and with the support of the locals, broke a boundary wall to rescue workers from the blazing factory. Some workers even jumped from the roof to save themselves, the police added. The cause of the fire is unknown. PTI

3 held for 'raping' minor in Jharkhand's Pakur district

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a minor girl in Jharkhand's Pakur district, the police said on Saturday. Search is under way to nab three more accused in the case, they said. The incident took place on February 17, but the FIR was lodged on Friday, a senior police officer said. "The minor alleged in the complaint that four people of her village and two others kidnapped her and then raped her in a truck," SP Nidhi Dwivedi said. "Considering the seriousness of the matter, a special investigation team was set up. Three accused have been arrested," she said. The accused are aged between 20 and 22 years. PTI

6 wagons of goods train derail in M.P., rail traffic disrupted

Six wagons of a coal-goods train derailed in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district on Saturday, severely disrupting rail traffic on the busy route and forcing the diversion of multiple trains. Work is under way on a war-footing to restore the line on the New Katni Junction (NKJ) section, the West Central Railway's chief public relations officer Harshit Shrivastava said. A team from Jabalpur was at the spot overseeing the repairs, he added. The derailment occurred around 10.30 a.m. near the A Cabin in the NKJ area, affecting rail operations on routes linked to Bilaspur in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, with four trains being diverted. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	2	4	1	8	5	9	7
4	1	9	7	5	2	6	3	8
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Over two-fold rise in breast cancer incidence in 30 years

Estimates show breast cancer incidence in India at 29.4 per 1,00,000 women in 2023; experts highlight gaps in access to treatment, calling for regular screening to ensure early detection

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The incidence of breast cancer in India has more than doubled over the past three decades, experts said at an international oncology conference in Kolkata on Friday, while warning that gaps in access to treatment continue to affect many patients.

Experts participating in the India edition of the St. Gallen International Breast Cancer Conference said there was a steady increase in breast cancer cases in the country. Estimated data shared at the conference suggested that the incidence had increased from 13 per 1,00,000 women in 1990 to 29.4 in 2023.

Medical professionals agreed that active screening and raising awareness have helped detect more cases, but they feared that various other factors are also contributing to the rise.

Doctors said lifestyle changes, lack of breastfeeding, alcohol consumption, tobacco usage, and sedentary work could be contributing factors behind the rise in breast cancer in people. Though women are at a higher risk of getting affected by breast cancer, it is to be noted that even men can get breast cancer, and regular screening of both genders for breast cancer is crucial to detect the problem at an early stage.

"We know that geographical and economic factors should not be a barrier for breast cancer treatment, but unfortunately, till today, many people cannot get adequate care due to lack of resources," Soumen Das, director of the Institute of Breast Diseases, Kolkata, told *The Hindu*.

He added that their institute's research was focused on these implementation areas so that all cancer drugs that are available in the global market should also be made available in the remotest areas.

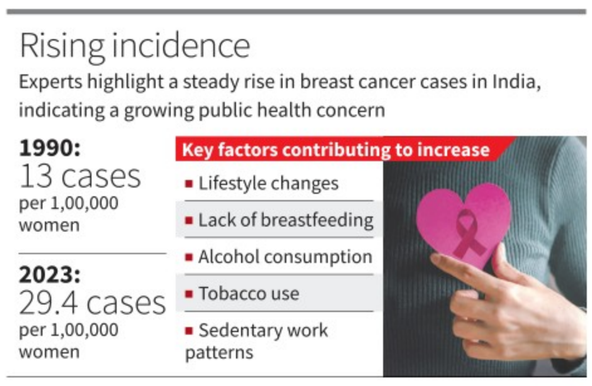
Dr. Das, who heads the Institute of Breast Diseases and is one of the event organiser, said that a treatment and drug which is not widely accessible to people across communities is not very helpful, and to mitigate this crisis, they have taken steps like making better use of government schemes and giving temporary employment to relatives or caregiver of the patient near the hospital. "We have seen an immense positive response due to this initiative. When the close relative is given temporary employment near or inside the hospital, the treatment completion rate increases," Dr. Das said.

Meanwhile, highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary care, Prof. Jens Houber, St. Gallen, Switzerland, said, "Advances in breast cancer treatment require close collaboration between surgery, radiation oncology, and systemic therapies. Global dialogue accelerates progress for patients everywhere."

Other researchers and doctors at the conference also stressed the need to ensure that breast cancer treatment and care reaches people across all sections of society in order to make a large-scale impact.

Five young investigators were selected to present their work at the next St. Gallen International Breast Cancer Conference scheduled to be held in Vienna in 2027.

The conference also launched the Project Pink Army, a community-driven volunteer movement aimed at mobilising the community to drive cancer awareness and build better patient support systems.



Consider abdominal obesity a vital sign in Asian Indians: study

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Asian Indians characteristically develop abdominal obesity despite relatively normal BMI.

Experts in India are calling for abdominal obesity to be recognised a new vital sign in Asian Indians. An editorial by Amerta Ghosh and Anoop Misra published in the journal *Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research and Reviews*, has emphasised the necessity of measuring waist circumference in all patients.

Metabolic crisis

The progressive increase in obesity and abdominal obesity in India represents a significant and evolving metabolic crisis contributing to the rising prevalence of conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and associated cardiometabolic disorders, the editorial noted.

Asian Indians characteristically develop abdominal obesity despite relatively normal Body Mass Index (BMI), a phenotype associated with higher insulin resistance, ectopic fat deposition, and earlier onset of metabolic diseases.

BMI, therefore, is an inadequate measure of obesity, it states, calling for a shift in focus from generalised obesity to abdominal obesity, from a reliance on BMI to prioritising waist circumference and related indices, including waist circumference-to-height ratio for more accurate cardiometabolic risk stratification in routine clinical practice.

Data from the National Family Health Survey-5 revealed that abdominal obesity affects approximately 40% of women and 12% of men.

Significantly, abdominal obesity is no longer confined to urban or affluent populations, it is rising in rural areas and increasingly affecting lower and middle socioeconomic groups, the editorial highlighted.

On the draw

Maharashtra govt. inks MoU for modernisation of Sassoon Dock

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Saturday with three Finnish companies to modernise Sassoon Dock. The agreement was signed by the Maharashtra Fisheries Development Corporation with the Finland-based Helvar, Mirasis, and River Recycle, at an event held here.

Sassoon Dock currently has around 1,560 registered mechanised fishing boats, and records an average annual fish production of 50,000 to 60,000 metric tonnes, making it an important economic centre for the fishing community, State Fisheries Minister Nitesh Rane said.

'Collective action needed to address climate change'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Mukesh Ambani and Anant Ambani hosted Alexander Stubb, at their home in Mumbai on Saturday. MUMBAI UNIVERSITY

Climate change is a global problem, but many of the solutions are going to be local, Finland President Alexander Stubb said in Mumbai on Saturday, emphasising the need for collective action to address the issue.

He was speaking to college students at the University of Mumbai campus after delivering an address on "Rebalancing the new world order: multilateral cooperation in the age of fragmentation". "We need to set global standards and levels, and then try to invest in technologies so that there will be innovations to lead towards a more sustainable system. The truth is that our consumption of energy is not going to go down. So, the question is, how can we generate clean energy?" he said.

Speaking about Finland's clean energy strategy, he said the country had started investing in renewable energy, nuclear energy and hydro-energy several years ago. Mr. Stubb spoke about the current global order, adding that the current churn and a multipolar order should lead to a multilateral world. "The Global South has a big role to play in it," he said.

Addressing the students, Mr. Stubb said, "Dream, believe, work hard and succeed. Dream is something all of us should have. You should dream big. Realise that not all those dreams will be fulfilled. But don't let anyone tell you, it is not possible."

Encouraging students to work hard, he said being uncomfortable and pushed to the limits was not necessarily "a bad thing".

Defining success as creating meaning in life, he said it was important to do something that had an impact.

"By success, I do not mean societal status or a title. I do not mean wealth. For me – and especially for all you students – success is defined by meaning. Meaning comes from the fact that you do something in your day-to-day life which has an impact, which you believe is important. That will lead to a happy life. But don't be too hard on yourself," he said.

U.P. accounts for most cases of denial of access to public spaces to persons from SC communities

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Reported cases of denial of access to public spaces to persons from the Scheduled Caste communities – a crime category that was introduced by the National Crime Records Bureau in 2017 – have been rising across India since authorities started recording them, with Uttar Pradesh holding a large share.

As per the NCRB's 2023 Crime in India report, there were 180 reported cases of SCs being denied access to public spaces under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act across the country. Of these, 173 were reported in U.P. alone, The remaining incidents were reported from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

The NCRB's data for the year before, showed that the country reported 305 of such cases out of which 300 were from U.P. In 2018, the State accounted for 68% of such cases all over India, which rose to 80% in 2019.

For better classification

Ish Kumar, former Director-General of the NCRB, told *The Hindu* that in 2017, the organisation introduced new columns to "better classify" crimes across India. As a result, new crime heads and classifications were added in the Crime in India reports. The category of crimes under the SC/ST Act – 'Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage' – was among the new crime-heads that were added to the series as part of this reform.

In the first year that this crime category was introduced, it noted just 12 cases across the country, spread across States like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, and Maharashtra, while U.P. reported zero. However, U.P. did record 57 cases that year under another newly added category: SC persons being forced to leave their residence or facing social boycott.

Interestingly, a review of this crime category data showed that the number of such cases reported was relatively lower for people belonging to Scheduled Tribe communities.

Crime chart

Reported cases of denial of access to public spaces to persons from SC communities

Year	Total cases (India)	Cases in U.P.	U.P. share (%)
2017	12	0	0%
2018	16	11	68%
2019	26	21	80%
2022	305	300	98.3%
2023	180	173	96.1%

CBSE Class 12 Board exams postponed in West Asia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Saturday postponed the Class 12 Board exams scheduled for March 9, 10 and 11 in the West Asia region amid the Iran-Israel conflict.

"Due to the current situation in parts of the Middle East – Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE, the board has decided to postpone Class 12 exams on March 9, 10 and 11," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

DUBAI

Minor incident near Marina tower after 'interception': media office

AFP

The UAE said on Sunday that debris from a 'successful' interception caused a minor incident on the facade of tower in Dubai Marina. The Emirates had earlier reported "incoming missile and drone threats from Iran". The situation has been contained with no injuries being reported, according to the Dubai media office. AFP, REUTERS

SHANGHAI

Xi calls for political loyalty among military as anti-graft purge widens

AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday the military must be loyal to the Communist Party and root out corruption, according to a report by the official Xinhua news agency. "There is no place for corruption to hide," said Mr. Xi. "The fight against corruption must move forward." REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. 'not concerned' about reports of Russia aiding Iran, says Hegseth

AFP

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday that the United States is "not concerned" about reports that Russia is providing intelligence to Iran on U.S. troop positions and movements. "Our commanders are aware of everything. We're not concerned about that," the Pentagon chief said. "We mitigate it as we need to." AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan court jails 47 supporters of Imran Khan over 2023 protests

REUTERS

A Pakistan anti-terrorism court on Saturday sentenced 47 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf members to 10 years imprisonment in absentia for vandalism and violence during the May 9, 2023, protest. The countrywide protest was launched by workers following the arrest of former premier and party founder Imran Khan in Islamabad. PTI

Balen beats Oli in first post-protest polls; RSP to form next govt. in Nepal

Rapper-turned-politician Balen poised to become next Prime Minister, as his party, the Rastriya Swatantra Party, heads for a landslide victory; Balen secured 68,348 votes while former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli trailed behind with 18,734 votes

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Balendra Shah, the rapper-turned-politician, handed a humiliating defeat to former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in Jhapa-5, the latter's home constituency, with a margin of 49,614.

Mr. Shah, popularly known as Balen, is set to become Nepal's next Prime Minister, as his party, the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), heads for a landslide victory in Thursday's election – the first since last year's Gen Z protests that toppled the Oli government.

Balen, 35, secured 68,348 votes against Mr. Oli's 18,734 in a race that never became competitive from the outset. This was a constituency where the CPN-UML leader had won six of the seven elections held since 1990.

Main man: Balendra Shah holds a certificate after winning the Jhapa-5 seat in the general election on Saturday. PTI

Many see the RSP's surge – with the party poised to win more seats than required for a simple majority – as a mix of people being attracted to the new party and fed up with the old guard, including Mr. Oli's CPN-UML and the Nepali Congress.

Mr. Oli, 74, had won the last election in 2022, garnering 52,310 votes and beating his closest rival by a margin of 28,576 votes.

Nepal held its elections on Thursday following last September's youth-led protests, in which 77 people lost their lives, including 19 who were killed in police firing on the first day, September 8.

Mr. Oli resigned the following day but never apologised for the killings.

Sweeps across seats

As of now, the RSP has won 59 seats and is leading in 62 out of 165 constituencies.

The Nepali Congress is trailing far behind, with nine wins and leading in an equal number of constituencies. Similarly, Mr. Oli's UML has won three seats and is leading in nine constituencies.

Under the proportional representation system, the RSP is far ahead with 256,680 votes (53%), while the Nepali Congress lags at 79,420 votes (16.59%) out of 478,834 votes counted so far. The UML has secured 63,003 votes (13%).

RSP chief Rabi Lamichhane was declared the winner earlier on Saturday in Chitwan-2, securing 54,402 votes and defeating his closest rival, Mina Kharel of the Nepali Congress, by a margin of 39,838 votes. This marks his third consecutive win since 2022, the year he founded the party and contested his first election.

At least 40 killed in Israeli airborne raid in Lebanon

Reuters
BEIRUT

Israel's military carried out an airborne operation that dropped troops into a town in eastern Lebanon overnight, residents and Lebanese state media said on Saturday, as heavy Israeli strikes on the area left more than a dozen people dead.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said at least 41 people were killed and 40 wounded overnight in Nabi Chit and areas nearby.

Lebanon was plunged deeper into the conflict engulfing West Asia on Monday when Iran-backed Hezbollah launched rockets and drones into Israel. Overnight, Israeli helicopters dropped troops near the town of Nabi Chit in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanese state media and residents said. Residents and Hezbollah fighters fired on the troops as they moved on foot, the reports said.

Caught in crosshairs: People inspect the damage after an Israeli military operation in the town of Nabi Chit on Saturday. REUTERS

The Lebanese Army said three soldiers were among those killed in the exchange of fire. It also reported that residents clashed with the Israeli force while Lebanese troops went on alert and fired light bombs.

Hezbollah said its members clashed with the Israeli force, and that Israel's air force conducted some 40 airstrikes in the area in order for the unit on the ground to be able to withdraw.

The Israeli troops withdrew and left by helicopter as Israeli strikes pounded Nabi Chit and nearby towns, state media and residents said.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 200 people across Lebanon.

Sri Lanka to treat sailors from Iran as per 'international law'

Agence France-Presse
NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka will treat Iranian sailors rescued from a torpedoed frigate according to international law, the country's Foreign Minister said on Saturday, following reports Washington was pressuring Colombo to not repatriate them.

Vijitha Herath told a conference in New Delhi that Sri Lanka was caring for 32 sailors from the Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena* under Colombo's international treaty obligations.

The frigate was sunk by a U.S. submarine on Wednesday just off Sri Lanka's southern coast.

Sri Lanka sent its navy to rescue survivors and recover 84 bodies.

Colombo has also provided safe haven to another Iranian vessel and evacuated 219 crew members

Asked if Colombo was under pressure from the U.S. to not repatriate the Iranians, Mr. Herath did not answer directly.

"We have taken all the steps according to international laws," Mr. Herath said.

Sri Lanka also provided safe haven to a second Iranian warship, the *IRIS Bushehr*, and evacuated its 219 crew a day after the *IRIS Dena* was torpedoed.

The ship was taken to Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's northeast coast after reporting engine problems.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said this week that Colombo would follow the Hague Convention, which requires a neutral state to hold combatants of a warring state until hostilities end.

A senior administration official said Colombo was in talks with the International Committee of the Red Cross to deal with the survivors of the torpedoed ship.

International humanitarian law applied to the survivors from the *IRIS Dena*, an official said, and the wounded could be repatriated at their request.

Iranian diplomats in Colombo said they have asked for the remains of 84 sailors killed in the U.S. attack to be taken back to Iran.

Man with ties to Iran found guilty of plot to kill Trump

Reuters
WASHINGTON

A Pakistani man was convicted on Friday of planning to kill President Donald Trump and other prominent U.S. politicians two years ago at the behest of Iran, the Department of Justice said.

Asif Merchant was accused of trying to recruit people in the U.S. in a plan targeting Mr. Trump and others in retaliation for Washington's killing of Iranian military General Qassem Soleimani in 2020, when Mr. Trump was in his first term. Mr. Merchant admitted to joining the plot but testified he did so unwillingly, to protect his family in Tehran.

Russian strikes kill 12 across Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia fired a volley of missiles and drones across Ukraine overnight on Friday to Saturday, killing 12 people and wounding more than a dozen, including children.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia has fired 29 missiles and 480 drones, several of which targeted energy and railway infrastructure.

Kharkiv worst hit

Authorities in Kharkiv, the second largest city, said a ballistic missile strike destroyed a five-storey apartment block, killing 10 people.

"Since last night, the rubble of a residential building in Kharkiv is being cleared following a Russian ballistic missile strike," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Blazing through: Firefighters work on an apartment building after a Russian missile attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Saturday. AP

The victims included two women and their two children, Mayor Igor Terekhov said.

"Russia has not abandoned its attempts to destroy Ukraine's residential and critical infrastructure," Mr. Zelenskyy added.

Russia said it had carried out a "massive high-precision strike" against military targets in Ukraine. It routinely denies targeting civilian infrastructure.

The Russian Army said earlier it had intercepted over 120 Ukrainian drones overnight.

An air raid alert was triggered during the night across Ukraine. One person died in the eastern region of Dnipropetrovsk. In the Sumy region bordering Russia, one person died in his car when it was hit by a Russian drone, according to local officials.

The drone barrages from either side follow on the heels of an exchange between Moscow and Kyiv of 500 prisoners of war each, in line with accords reached during the latest round of peace talks in Geneva. Negotiations have stalled amid a lack of progress and since the eruption of war in West Asia.

THE HINDU GROUP

GETTING ON A BUS TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE.

For men, it's just a routine.
For women, it's a risk assessment.
Freedom was never meant to come with contingency plans.
Yet millions of women carry one - every single day.
Until the ordinary stops feeling dangerous, freedom is just a word.

THE HINDU
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HORSES FOR COURSES

Axar was dropped against SA looking at match-ups: Suryakumar

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Suryakumar Yadav said Axar Patel wasn't particularly happy after being dropped against South Africa. "It's not an individual decision. We [Gautam Gambhir and I] looked at favourable match-ups and dropped Axar. It was a clear conversation. He wasn't happy (laughs). These are professionals; they understand," Suryakumar said.

HARD AT WORK

New Zealand leaves no stone unturned during practice sessions

VIJAY SONEJI

New Zealand had a full-fledged training session under floodlights on Friday night. Yet, when the team returned for practice on a sultry Saturday afternoon, none of the regulars opted to rest at the hotel. Instead, the entire squad sweated it out on the field, preparing diligently for the high-stakes clash.

NO WORRIES

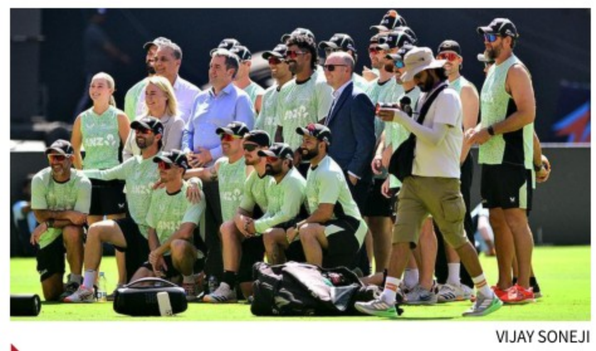
Suryakumar shrugs off concerns of toss and dew playing a part

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Dew may set in during the second innings of the T20 World Cup final between India and New Zealand. "If there's a difficult situation, you've got to act. If you're batting [second], there's an advantage. But we've been playing a lot of franchise and international cricket amid heavy dew," Suryakumar Yadav said.

NO HOLDS BARRED

Chokers tag should be handed over to NZ if it falters in final: Steyn



VIJAY SONEJI

Everyone likes to call South Africa chokers, but New Zealand hasn't won many World Cups itself, and it has been in more finals than we have. So, no offence, NZ, but please go on to win this. Otherwise, I am formally handing over that card to you. I love NZ, but it won't beat India — Dale Steyn in a chat with AB de Villiers.

India seeks encore, New Zealand eyes maiden title

The Men in Blue could become the first team to win back-to-back crowns in the showpiece; the Kiwis will be determined to put an end to falling at the final hurdle in ICC white-ball global events

T20 WORLD CUP FINAL

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

In its earlier modest avatar as the Motera, the current gigantic Narendra Modi Stadium, witnessed history. In this venue, Sunil Gavaskar became the first man to reach 10,000 Test runs with a late cut off Pakistani spinner Ijaz Faqih in 1987. And in 1994, Kapil Dev emerged as the highest wicket-taker in Tests, scalping Sri Lankan Hashan Tillakaratne as his 432nd victim.

These achievements, though, were at an individual level, while India searched for a collective team performance that would lend an aura to this ground. The Men in Blue lost the 2023 World Cup final to Australia here on a November night that broke countless hearts.

Cut to the present, Suryakumar Yadav's men have a chance to script history as Sunday's ICC T20 World Cup final against New Zealand beckons. Stepping in as defending champion, India seeks an encore. No team has won back-to-back titles in the showpiece.

Through the campaign, despite a solitary loss against South Africa, India found a way to dominate. Its tail-wind now is being propelled by opener Sanju Samson, spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

Samson has lent assurance and aggression. Nearly everyone has chipped in. Shivam Dube has batted well, and another all-rounder Axar Patel has displayed incredible fielding skills.

Still, there are concerns. Abhishek Sharma has a lone fifty, and Varun Chakaravarthy's mystique as a spinner has been dented. Both stepped into this championship as ICC's No. 1 batter and bowler respectively in T20Is. Their mixed yield is another reflection of how sport can be a hard place.

Facing-off from the rival corner is New Zealand. Finn Allen's 33-ball unbeaten 100 pulverised South Africa in the semifinal at Eden Gardens. His fellow opener Tim Seifert has been prolific while among the bowlers, Rachin Ravindra the spinner, has dominated with 11 wickets and seamer Matt Henry has kept it tight.

Samson. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bogey team

The Black Caps have often ambushed India at the biggest stages. Be it the 2019 World Cup semifinal at Manchester, or the 2021 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final at Southampton, New Zealand dashed Indian hopes.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the West Indies was the second-favourite side of most fans, and now that tag sits easily upon New Zealand, as the likes of Kane Williamson enhanced the endearment-factor.

Mitchell Santner's troops will be conscious of a drought when it comes to ICC global titles. A lone WTC crown, and multiple runner-up finishes define New Zealand's tilt at glory so far.

In ODIs, back in 2000, New Zealand won the ICC KnockOut Trophy at India's expense in Nairobi with Chris Cairns smashing an unbeaten 102. The one link from those days is Ajit Agarkar, who played that game, and is now the chairman of Indian selectors.

New Zealand would want to replicate its giant-killing act. However, India wants to own a slice of history in a city that seeks a sporting high as a prelude to hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games besides dreaming about a probable Olympic venue in 2036.

And then there were two...

India and New Zealand are the last ones standing after a month of riveting action in the ICC T20 World Cup. The Men in Blue will look to defend their crown and break the duck against the Black Caps in the showpiece. The Kiwis, on the other hand, will aim to lift their maiden trophy

THE FINAL

Ahmedabad, 7 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD in T20Is

MATCHES	INDIA	NEW ZEALAND	TIED
30	18	11	1

(The result of the rain-hit Tied match was determined via DLS method)

FORM GUIDE (LAST FIVE GAMES, LATEST FIRST)

INDIA: W W W L W

NEW ZEALAND: W L W NR W

HEAD-TO-HEAD in T20 WCs

Matches: 3 | India: 0 | New Zealand: 3

- **2007:** NZ won by 10 runs, Johannesburg
- **2016:** NZ won by 47 runs, Nagpur
- **2021:** NZ won by eight wickets, Dubai

THE PROPELLERS

INDIA	NEW ZEALAND
MOST RUNS	
Ishan Kishan (263, eight innings, Strike Rate 189.20)	**Finn Allen** (289, seven innings, SR 203.52)
Suryakumar Yadav (242, eight innings, SR 137.50)	**Tim Seifert** (274, seven innings, SR 161.17)
Sanju Samson (232, four innings, SR 201.73)	**Glenn Phillips** (176, five innings, SR 160)
MOST WICKETS	
Varun Chakaravarthy (13, eight innings, Economy Rate 8.86)	**Rachin Ravindra** (11, six innings, ER 6.88)
Jasprit Bumrah (10, seven innings, ER 6.63)	**Matt Henry** (9, seven innings, ER 7.59)
Arshdeep Singh (9, seven innings, ER 8.54)	**Lockie Ferguson** (6, six innings, ER 8.42)

THE COIN FACTOR (T20 WC FINALS)

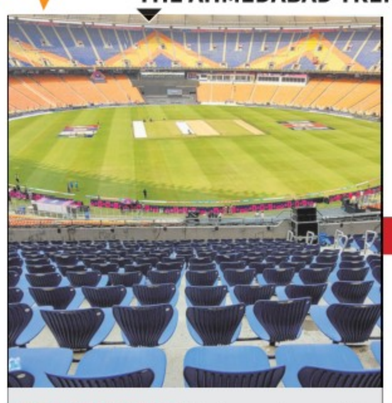
- **2007 (Johannesburg):** India opted to bat, won by five runs against Pakistan
- **2009 (Lord's):** Sri Lanka took first strike, lost by eight wickets to Pakistan
- **2010 (Bridgetown):** England elected to field, defeated Australia by seven wickets
- **2012 (Colombo):** West Indies decided to bat, beat Sri Lanka by 36 runs
- **2014 (Dhaka):** Sri Lanka chose to chase, registered a six-wicket win over India
- **2016 (Kolkata):** West Indies fielded first, got the better of England by four wickets
- **2021 (Dubai):** Australia elected to bat second, defeated New Zealand by eight wickets
- **2022 (Melbourne):** England opted to field, recorded a five-wicket win over Pakistan
- **2024 (Bridgetown):** India batted first, prevailed by seven runs against South Africa

THE TEAMS' PERFORMANCE IN T20 WC FINALS

INDIA
Played: 3 | Won: 2 | Lost: 1
- **2007:** Beat Pakistan by five runs
- **2014:** Lost to Sri Lanka by six wickets
- **2024:** Beat South Africa by seven runs

NEW ZEALAND
Played: 1 | Won: 0 | Lost: 1
- **2021:** Lost to Australia by eight wickets

THE AHMEDABAD TREND (2026 T20 WC)



DEFEND OR CHASE?
- Matches won by teams batting first: 3
- Matches won by teams chasing: 2

(The South Africa-Afghanistan group-stage match was not taken into account as it was decided by a double Super Over)

TOSS ELEMENT (Night matches only)

TEAMS CHOOSING TO BAT	TEAMS OPTING TO CHASE
2	2

FINALISTS' RECORD

INDIA
Played: 2 | Won: 1 | Lost: 1
- **Group stage:** Beat Netherlands by 17 runs
- **Super Eight:** Lost to South Africa by 76 runs

NEW ZEALAND
Played: 1 | Won: 0 | Lost: 1
- **Group stage:** Lost to South Africa by seven wickets

NUMBERS THAT MATTER

1 India will achieve a hat-trick of firsts with a triumph
- **First to clinch three T20 WC titles**
- **First to successfully defend the crown**
- **First to win the trophy on home soil**

2 Mitchell Santner has helmed New Zealand to back-to-back finals in ICC white-ball tournaments (2025 Champions Trophy, 2026 T20 WC)

4 India has reached the summit clash in four successive ICC limited-overs competitions (2023 ODI WC, 2024 T20 WC, 2025 Champions Trophy, 2026 T20 WC)

7 If New Zealand wins, it will become the seventh different team to bag the T20 World Cup trophy

Source: ESPNCRICINFO & ICC
Compiled by **S. SHRIVATHSAN**

Suryakumar allays fears about Varun's recent struggles

Santadeep Dey
AHMEDABAD

A Suryakumar Yadav press conference can feel a lot like watching him bat. Just when you think the line of questioning is predictable, he pulls out something unexpected. A quip here, a smirk there; it is 360-degree box office.

So, when asked for a reaction to New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner's 'the goal is to silence the crowd' remark on the eve of the T20 World Cup final, Suryakumar said: "Why does everyone keep copy-pasting the same line? They need to come up with something new."

Of course, he was referring to Pat Cummins, the charismatic Australian skipper, who had kept his word back in 2023, his side crushing Indian spirits in the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Now a new-look squad has taken up the challenge to flip the script during Sunday's showdown at the Narendra Modi Stadium here. Even as the battle lines are firmly drawn in a completely different format, Suryakumar plays it cool.

"The camp is very relaxed. It's a special feeling to lead such a wonderful side at home, and that too at such a wonderful stadium," he said.

Somewhere deep inside, he knows there are concerns. Especially those surrounding the forms of his prized World No. 1s – Abhishek Sharma and Varun Chakaravarthy.

While Abhishek's lean patch has wrecked India's run-bank – the southpaw has managed to score only 89 in seven games at an average of 12.71 –Varun has been struggling since the start of the Super Eight. The spinner's economy rate shot up to 11.62 in the last four games; it was a miserly 5.16 earlier.

However, if you were to take Suryakumar's word for it, he isn't worried. "We won the match (against England) eventually, and that happens when everyone is putting in a collective effort. If we are winning games, we don't worry about such things. Everyone goes through ups and downs. It is not possible for all 11 players to have a good day at the office. Varun is well aware of how he can step up."

A major talking point through India's campaign has been the chatter surrounding its left-handed batters and their underwhelming stats against off-spin. The said match-up has seen 11 dismissals.

Suryakumar said: "We never discussed it. If we played at a strike rate of 120 (113.69, to be accurate) and are still in the final, I don't mind. It is important to bat according to the situation and requirement".

Staying relaxed: Suryakumar takes time off for an interview ahead of the final. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Terrific trio: All eyes will be on the opening pair of Allen and Seifert as well as pacer Henry. VIJAY SONEJI

'Wouldn't mind breaking hearts to win trophy'

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Australia has the legacy. India has been on the ascendancy. New Zealand has the consistency.

This is one way to sum up performances at ICC limited-overs World Cups in the last decade. New Zealand's men, on Sunday, will feature in the final of a global tournament for the fifth time in the last decade or so – a testament to their sustained excellence across formats.

Yet captain Mitchell Santner knows that his players, often dubbed the "nicest guys" in world cricket, will have to break a billion hearts if they are to lift their maiden men's T20 World Cup trophy.

"I wouldn't mind winning a trophy," Santner said on Saturday. "You look at this group and the groups that have been in the past... we are pretty consistent in our thoughts. We try not to get ruled by the situation or the opponent. We just go out there and do our thing as a unit.

"It's been no different this time. Everyone knows we are probably not the favourites, but we don't mind that. If we do the little things well and put in a strong team performance, it can put us in a good position to hopefully lift the trophy. I wouldn't mind breaking a few hearts to do that," added Santner.

New Zealand's rival India has been nearly invincible in ICC tournaments of late. In their last 33 matches across global events, the Men in Blue have lost only twice – the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia and the 2026 T20 World Cup Super Eight clash against South Africa last month. Both defeats came at this very venue.

Australia captain Pat Cummins' famous "silence the crowd" remark had echoed through the stadium in the 2023 ODI World Cup title decider here. Santner, too, believes that handling the atmosphere will be the key. "I guess that's the goal – to silence the crowd. There are a lot of variables in T20 cricket. It's fickle at times. We've seen throughout this World Cup that teams are evenly matched. It often comes down to a few small moments," said Santner.

The battle between the Allen-Seifert duo and Bumrah will be key

Sunil Gavaskar

Will the Indian cricket team repeat history? Will it defeat history? No men's team has won the ICC T20 World Cup back-to-back and no host nation has won the title in its own backyard. Standing against them and trying to prevent them from repeating and defeating history is New Zealand.

A team that has beaten India every single time in the T20 World Cup. A team that has beaten them in the final of the ICC World Test Championship.

A team that may not be big, as far as cricketing superstars are concerned, but almost always ends up in the knockout stages of an ICC tournament. A team that enjoys being away from the spotlight. A team that doesn't fear any opponent.

The advantage of having been in India prior to the tournament was a smart move and that is paying dividends. The Kiwis got used to the format in the five-match T20I series. Finn Allen and Tim Seifert joined the team at some point and suddenly, New Zealand went from losing wickets in the PowerPlay to unleashing their power-hitting.

There have been some great innings in this World Cup, including the two brilliant ones from Sanju Samson's blade, but it's hard to think beyond the century off 33 deliveries by Allen. That opening partnership and their battle with Jasprit Bumrah is going to be the key when New Zealand decide whether to bat first or chase. Couple of areas where they can get better is the promotion of Daryl Mitchell in the batting order and the use of the fifth bowler.

India had a close shave against England after Jacob Bethell played an innings for the ages. Their batting looks good, as can be seen by the 250-plus runs they posted against England. It's the bowling that is the worry, as England came within a whisker of overhauling the Indian total.

They have a problem with Varun Chakaravarthy being clobbered for runs from the Super Eight stage. He looks down on confidence. Will they take a bold call and include Kuldeep Yadav for the longer boundaries in Ahmedabad?

With Abhishek Sharma unable or unwilling to change his approach and holing out in the deep in the PowerPlay itself, will they push Ishan Kishan to open the batting?

If they do, it could go exactly as it was in the Asia Cup final last year, with Rinku Singh being in the spotlight in the crunch. 'God's Plan', as the ink on his arm says.

(Professional Management Group).

Lakshya edges Lai in an epic clash, enters All England final

The 24-year-old is one win away from ending India's 25-year wait for the crown; he will meet Taiwan's Lin in the summit clash; this is the second time the Uttarakhand shuttler will be featuring in the title round of the prestigious championship

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

Battling painful blisters on his foot and severe cramps, a gritty Lakshya Sen overcame Canada's Victor Lai to storm into the final of the All England Open badminton championships here on Saturday.

It turned out to be one of the finest matches of his career as Lakshya fought for one hour and 37 minutes before sealing a 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 win over the 21-year-old Lai, who had claimed a surprise bronze at last year's World Championships in Paris.

It will be Lakshya's second appearance in the All England final after finishing runner-up at the 2022 edition.

The 24-year-old from Almora in Uttarakhand will take on World No. 11 Lin Chun-yi of Taiwan in the summit clash on Sunday.

Lin edged out Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-14, 18-21, 21-16 in the first semifinal.

Prakash Padukone (1980) and Pullela Gopichand (2001) are the only Indians to have won the All England title.

Apart from them, only Prakash Nath (1947) and Saina Nehwal (2015) came close with runner-up finishes.

Lakshya displayed immense mental fortitude, resolute defence and precise strokeplay as he endured punishing rallies clocking as many as 86 shots, against the dogged Canadian.

The contest opened with a bruising 52-shot rally, setting the tone for a gruelling encounter.

Lai's subtle deception mixed with high tosses often caught Lakshya off guard, but the Indian relied on his superior strokeplay to stay level at 8-8.

Lakshya moved ahead 10-8 only for Lai to respond with a straight smash and a fine net shot to restore parity.

Lakshya managed to take a slender one-point lead at the break with a forehand drive before stepping up the attack with a series of accurate smashes and clever net play to surge ahead 18-16.

He soon grabbed four game points when Lai hit long and miscued another shot, before unleashing a barrage of aggressive strokes to clinch the opening game.

Though Lai forced a decider, Lakshya had enough in the tank to eke out a win.

Lakshya had outplayed former champion Li Shi Feng of China 21-13, 21-16 in the quarterfinal on Friday.

Gruelling encounter: Lakshya overcame blisters and cramps to seal a spot in the final. REUTERS

Nodirbek Abdusattorov. X@PRAGUECHESS

Abdusattorov triumphs, Aravindh finishes joint second

CHESS

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan won the title after an easy draw with white against Hans Moke Niemann of United States in the ninth and final round of the Masters section of the Prague International Chess festival that concluded here.

Aravindh Chithambaram defeated David Navara of Czech Republic to finish joint second while World champion D. Gukesh ended a winless streak, beating David Anton Guijarro of Spain. Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran, Jorden van Foreest of Holland and Aravindh tied for second spot with five points.

Navarra and Uzbek Nodirbek Yakubboev tied for fifth on 4.5 points, a half point ahead of German Vincent Keymer and Niemann while Gukesh and Guijarro tied for ninth.

In the Challengers' section Divya Deshmukh defeated Hrbek Stepan of Czech Republic to finish a creditable third.

The results: Masters: Vincent Keymer (4) lost to Nodirbek Yakubboev (4.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (5) bt Jorden van Foreest (5); David Anton Guijarro (3.5) lost to D. Gukesh (3.5), Aravindh Chithambaram (5) bt David Navara (4.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (6) drew with Hans Moke Niemann (4).

Ruthless Japan hits 11 past hapless India

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Hinata Miyazawa and Riko Ueki performed hat-tricks as Japan powered to the cusp of the Women's Asian Cup quarterfinals with a statement 11-0 victory over India on Saturday.

Yuzuki Yamamoto scored after just four minutes to begin the rout, and Japan was 5-0 up by half-time, with Manchester United's Miyazawa netting twice.

It was more of the same in the second half, with West Ham United's Ueki netting a quickfire treble and Miyazawa also scoring her third of the match.

The one-sided romp left Japan top of Group C with a maximum six points.

Taiwan and Vietnam have three points each, and India is rock-bottom of the group (two losses).

Meanwhile, North Korea, South Korea and host Australia are all already into the last eight with a game to spare, as is China.

The result: India 0 lost to Japan 11 (Yuzuki Yamamoto 4, Yui Hasegawa 13, Hinata Miyazawa 20, 35 & 81, Kiko Seike 45+5 & 55, Riko Ueki 47, 50 & 65, Maya Hijikata 62).

The leader: Japan, with six points from two outings, is on top of Group C. GETTY IMAGES

Russell leads Mercedes 1-2 in qualifying; Verstappen crashes

AUSTRALIAN GP

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

George Russell powered to pole position on Saturday for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix ahead of Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli, but there was disaster for Max Verstappen as he crashed out.

Verstappen's Red Bull partner Isack Hadjar came third in chaotic qualifying as the pecking order became clearer after the biggest regulation shake-up F1 has seen in years.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will keep Hadjar company on the second row with McLaren's Oscar Piastri and world champion teammate Lando Norris starting fifth and sixth.

Russell eclipsed his rivals with a flying lap of one minute 18.518 seconds on soft tyres, 0.293 ahead of Antonelli.

Incredibly, Antonelli showed up after crashing heavily in final practice earlier in the day and writing off his Silver Arrow.

The 19-year-old Italian left the car in a mess but his mechanics miraculously managed to stitch it back together and he got on track with just three minutes left of Q1 to stay alive.

It was a nightmare for four-time world champion Verstappen who slammed into the barriers at Turn 1 of his first flying lap in Q1.

Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton will start in seventh alongside the Racing Bull of Liam Lawson, with rookie Arvid Lindblad in the other Racing Bull and Audi's Gabriel Bortoleto filling out the top 10.

The grid: 1st row: Russell (Mercedes) & Antonelli (Mercedes). **2nd:** Hadjar (Red Bull) & Leclerc (Ferrari). **3rd:** Piastri (McLaren) & Norris (McLaren). **4th:** Hamilton (Ferrari) & Lawson (Racing Bulls). **5th:** Lindblad (Racing Bulls) & Bortoleto (Audi). **6th:** Hulkenberg (Audi) & Bearman (Haas). **7th:** Ocon (Haas) & Gasly (Alpine). **8th:** Albon (Williams) & Colapinto (Alpine). **9th:** Alonso (Aston Martin) & Perez (Cadillac). **10th:** Bottas (Cadillac) & Verstappen (Red Bull). **11th:** Sainz (Williams) & Stroll (Aston Martin).

Top class: Russell celebrates after locking in the pole position for the season's first race. AFP

Nailing it: Valverde fires in Real's winner. AFP

Valverde strikes late as Real pips Celta Vigo

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
VIGO

Federico Valverde's heavily deflected 95th-minute drive snatched Real Madrid a 2-1 win at Celta Vigo in LaLiga on Friday.

The midfielder needed a stroke of fortune to pull his team to within one point of leader Barcelona. Aurelien Tchouameni opened the scoring for Los Blancos early on but Borja Iglesias soon pulled Celta level.

Bayern Munich cruised to a 4-1 win over a Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday. Napoli recorded its first home win in Serie A since late January with a 2-1 defeat of Torino on Friday to tighten its grip on third place. To add to Napoli's positive night, Kevin De Bruyne came on as a second-half substitute for his first appearance since tearing his hamstring in October.

The results: On Friday: LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 25) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Tchouameni 11, Valverde 90+5).

Serie A: Napoli 2 (Alisson 7, Elmas 68) bt Torino 1 (Casadei 87). **Bundesliga:** Bayern Munich 4 (Diaz 33, Laimer 45+1, Musiala 57-pen, Jackson 79) bt Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Mohya 89).

Chennaiyin FC finally gets a victory under its belt

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOCHI

The agonising wait is over for Chennaiyin FC. It has finally scored a win this season in the ISL.

For its rival on Saturday night, Kerala Blasters, though, the nightmare just continues. The 0-1 defeat at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was its fourth in as many matches for the Kochi men.

In an ISL that has no return leg fixtures, that is a frightening position to be in. They have Mohammedan Sporting for company, though.

Coach David Catala, on the eve of this match, had expressed confidence that the goals would come. Sadly for his team, they never did. In fact, Blasters have been able to score just one goal this season.

Not that Chennaiyin is on a scoring spree. The goal it scored on this night is only its second of the season.

That goal came off a powerful strike from Imran Khan's left foot late in the opening half; it was firm enough to beat a deflection off the Blasters' defence.

Earlier, both sides had opportunities to score, as the match began with Chennaiyin looking keener to attack, but the host then regrouped and counterattacked.

Chennaiyin's goal, in fact, came shortly after Blasters wasted a couple of corner kicks in succession. Poor finishing has indeed been the biggest of Blasters' many problems this season. It became even more obvious in the second half. Chances of an equaliser were missed consistently. A fine show under the bar by Chennaiyin's Mohammad Nawaz merits mention, though.

The result: Kerala Blasters 0 lost to Chennaiyin FC 1 (Imran Khan 42).

Bengaluru FC beats Mohammedan Sporting

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Bengaluru FC registered a hard-fought 2-1 victory over host Mohammedan Sporting SC in an Indian Super League match at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Saturday.

The visitor took the lead in the 22nd minute when forward Ryan Williams scored from close range. The move began with a corner taken by Uzbekistan midfielder Sirojiddin Kuziev. The ball deflected off a Mohammedan defender and fell near Williams, who calmly tapped it into the net.

Bengaluru continued to control possession and create chances. The visitor's efforts paid off again in the 41st minute when Ashique Kuruniyan doubled the lead. A shot from Williams was cleared by the opposition's defence, but the ball landed just outside the box where Ashique struck a powerful left-footer that beat goalkeeper Padam Chettri.

Mohammedan Sporting returned with renewed determination after the break. A cross from Adison Singh in the 51st minute was cleared by Bengaluru defender Rahul Bheke, but the ball reached Mahitosh Roy at the edge of the box. Roy fired a grounder past goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, bringing the home side back into the contest.

The host pushed hard for an equaliser and came close in the 65th minute, when Lalthankima's powerful strike beat Sandhu but hit the crossbar. The win took Bengaluru to sixth spot with seven points from four matches while Mohammedan remained at the bottom without any points.

On target: Mohammedan Sporting pulled one back in the second half but that wasn't enough in the end. PTI

The result:
Mohammedan Sporting 1 (Mahitosh Roy 51) lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Ryan Williams 22, Ashique Kuruniyan 41).

Ready to rumble: The captains of the participating teams ahead of the competition. NAGARA GOPAL

India keen to ride on home comforts in WWC Qualifiers

How the hosts adapt to coach Marijne's style is something to watch out for; the team's ability to deal with penalty corners remains a concern; England among favourites to progress

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

The India women's team will have a second, and final, chance to seal its place at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026 when the Qualifiers get underway at the G.M.C. Balayogi Hockey Ground here on Sunday.

After missing direct qualification by finishing runner-up at the 2025 Women's Hockey Asia Cup, India will look to make its chance count in the comfort of home. That proposition isn't without its challenges, given that the event marks returning head coach Sjoerd Marijne's first assignment.

India (ninth) is the second-highest-ranked team in the competition, behind only England, which ranks two places higher. Understandably, both teams are widely considered among the favourites to progress.

India's squad features a healthy blend of youth and experience. Still, it remains to be seen how quickly the players adapt to Marijne's methods - centred on high pressing, rapid transitions and aggressive counterattacking play - given his second innings is still in its infancy.

Marijne has shown considerable faith in a group of emerging players, including Bansari Solanki, Sakshi Rana, Annu, Ishika, and Deepika Soreng, as he looks to build a team capable of delivering results.

Veteran keeper Savita Punia and forward Sangita Kumari are notably absent from the mix, the former pulling out due to personal reasons and the latter left out of the squad.

Despite the presence of experienced defenders like Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam and Nikki Pradhan, India's backline - particularly its ability to deal with penalty corners - remains an area of concern. Captain Salima Tete acknowledged this as an area of work ahead of the competition.

Perhaps the biggest challenge awaiting the teams will be the sweltering conditions, with temperatures already hovering around 34°C and expected to rise further in the days to come. Some teams have, as a result, incorporated sauna sessions into their preparations to acclimatise. Wales is one among them.

"We are very fortunate that we ended up in India's group, so we have late games. We can't complain too much about that," Welsh captain Elizabeth Bingham said with a wry smile.

India has been placed in Pool B alongside lower-ranked Scotland, Uruguay and Wales who are well capable of springing a surprise.

Pool A comprises England, South Korea, Italy, and Austria, with the top two teams from each pool advancing to the semifinals.

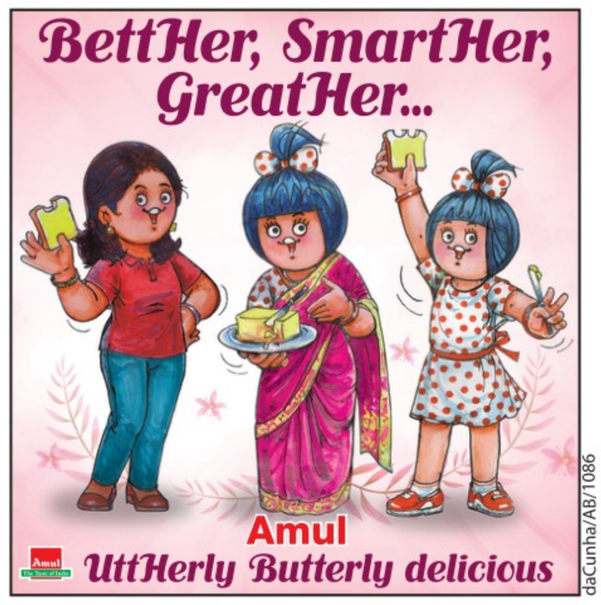
With another leg of Qualifiers just concluded in Chile, the best three from both tournaments and the cumulative best fourth-placed side will advance to the World Cup.

Olympian footballer Hamid passes away

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Olympian Syed Habibul Hassan, popularly known as Hamid, passed away here, aged 85, late on Friday. He is survived by a son and four daughters.

Hamid represented India in the 1960 Rome Olympics. He had played for Hyderabad Sporting Club, Hyderabad Police, Mohammedan Sporting Club and SCR at club level. Hamid, widely rated as a complete footballer, owed his success to the legendary coach Syed Abdul Rahim.



SNAPSHOTS

We are not a complete team, says Guardiola

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola knows Manchester City is not a "complete team" but he is convinced it can still overhaul Arsenal in the Premier League title race.

"Normally we react well. We have the ability to forget quick. We are not a complete team to compete, that is the reality, we are in the process of many changes," he said.

Ronaldo's injury more serious than first thought

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo's hamstring injury is more serious than first thought, Al-Nassr coach Jorge Jesus said.

"After the tests he underwent, it became clear that it is a more serious injury than we were expecting.

"He will need rest and recovery. Cristiano will travel to Spain for treatment, as will other players who were injured."

Divyansh, Khyati and Anish win gold medals

NEW DELHI: Divyansh Singh Panwar and Khyati Chaudhary secured the top spots in the men's and women's 10m air rifle events, respectively, in the National Selection Trials 3 (Group A) here on Saturday. Anish continued his dominance in the 25m rapid fire pistol, securing the top spot in T3 with 33 in the finals.

In the men's 10m air rifle finals, Divyansh finished on top of the eight-man final with a score of 252.5. Parth Rakesh Mane finished second with 251.5, while Tushar Shahu Mane was third (230.9).

The top spot in the women's finals was decided in a shoot-off where Khyati prevailed over Mahit Sandhu after both were tied at 251.4 after the completion of 24 shots. Mehuli Ghosh took the third place with a final score of 230.1.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Champions: Ankita and Vaishnavi after winning the doubles title.

It's Vaishnavi vs Ankita

India's Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina set up an all-Indian singles final at the ITF W35 in Kalaburagi on Saturday.

Vaishnavi and Ankita paired up later to win the doubles title.

In the singles semifinals, Vaishnavi took out top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere of Netherlands 6-3, 6-2. In the other last-four clash, Ankita defeated sixth seed Thasaporn Naklo of Thailand 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Other results: Doubles: Final: Vaishnavi & Ankita bt Akanksha Nitture & Soha Sadiq 6-2, 6-2.

MP beats Karnataka

Madhya Pradesh defeated Karnataka by six wickets in the BCCI under-23 women's one day trophy at Jaipur.

The scores: Karnataka 126 in 43.2 overs (Mithila Vinod 43 n.o.) lost to Madhya Pradesh 129/4 in 32.3 overs.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್-37/2025-26/5678 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-03-2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

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(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 13-03-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 16-03-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 17-03-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 18-03-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

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(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1183/25-26 dt.07.03.2026

ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ
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Phone: 0821-2421051, e-mail: ddmysorepalace@gmail.com

ಸಂ.: EO/MPB/DD//HORTI/MP/T.NO-10/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲ)
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಪ-ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರವರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆಯ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 178.66 ಲಕ್ಷದ** ಮಾನವ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ/ತಯಾರಕರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 1) ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **16.03.2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 17.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ನಂತರ 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 19.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ** ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುವ ದಿನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಂತರದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/1798/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

Shortterm Tender Notification No. 67/2025-26,
Dated: 07.03.2026

SHORTTERM PERMISSION E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORTS (DPR'S) FOR THE PROPOSED WORKS TO BE TAKEN UP UNDER CEPMIZ (KMERC)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division, Chitradurga is inviting tenders for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) for the works to be taken up under CEPMIZ (KMERC) as per Standard Bidding Document and KPWD Norms. **Name of work:-** Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) of Package No.1 a) Improvements to Sasalu – Chitradurga SH-48 via B. Durga Bheemasamudra, Hirekandavadi, Malappanahatti road in Chitradurga taluk b) Improvements to Sirigere to Bommenahalli via Kadleguddu in Chitradurga Taluk (Working Chainage Km 0.00 to 2.60)/call-2 **EMD:-** Workwise EMD Details may be obtained through KPPP Portal

Tender Process Details : **(1)** Tender Document can be downloaded in KPPP Portal from 03.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hours **(2)** Pre bid meeting on 11.03.2026 at 11.30 Hours (o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga) **(3)** Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders 16.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hours **(4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid 17.03.2026 at 16.15 Hours **(5)** Date & Time of Opening of Financial Proposal: will be informed separately to those consultants whose technical proposal is accepted. **(6)** Corrigendums, Addendums and Modifications in Notification if any will be published in KPPP Portal only. Terms of Reference may be downloaded in KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 07.03.2026. Registered Consultancy firms in KPPP portal are eligible to participate in any number of tender, But on consultancy firm is eligible to obtain Tender.

Any information can be obtained from o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga during office hours on all working days and also through kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPPP Portal Helpdesk Telephone No. 91 9240214000 & 91 9240214001.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/
747/2025-26

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru - 560064.

No: BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/09/2025-26 Date: 05-03-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-01)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Maintenance of Yelahanka New Town AEE, ARO and Mini Vidhana Soudha 3rd Floor Offices in Yelahanka New Town in Ward No. 04. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 37,500.00**
2	Repairs and Maintenance of Dhobhighat at Yelahanka Lake in Kempegowda Ward No. 01. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 16.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
3	Maintenance of Yelahanka Division Office Building at Yelahanka Old Town in Kempegowda Ward No. 01. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
4	Repairs to AEE Office Building Work (Including Lift) in Chowdeshwari Ward No. 02 of Yelahanka Sub Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 30,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Document can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **17-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **18-03-2026 after 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC.**

THE HINDU GROUP

FAST-FORWARD IS ABOUT TO TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT.

After a year that refused to slow down, comes a night that refuses to overlook it.

Join us, as we gather to honour the ones who pushed Indian sport into a faster gear and earned their place in the light.

March 13, 2026 | Mumbai | 6:30 PM onwards

Amul Presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2026 #IndiaTriumphs
Co-presented by CASAGRAND building aspirations
In Association with SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chief Guest
Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Hon'ble Union Minister of Labour & Employment, and Youth Affairs & Sports

Follow us on Instagram to stay updated as the celebrations unfold.

Presenting Partner: Amul
Co-presenting Partner: CASAGRAND building aspirations
In association with: SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Associate Partners: SBI The banker to every Indian, Yono SBI, CHRIST
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Education Partner: REVA UNIVERSITY
Cooling Partner: BLUE STAR BUILT ON TRUST
Telecast Partner: TIMES NOW

Sutherland's all-round show leaves India staring down the barrel

The 24-year-old follows up her classy hundred with a couple of wickets as Australia reduces the visitors to 105 for six at stumps on day two; Harmanpreet's side needs 20 more runs to avoid an innings defeat in the one-off day-night Test

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
PERTH

Ace all-rounder Annabel Sutherland added two wickets to her hundred of rare quality to hand Australia firm control over India on the second day of the women's one-off day-night Test here on Saturday.

Sutherland smashed her fourth century (129, 171b, 17x4) in her last seven innings, and third in a row, to guide Australia to 323. It helped the home side gain a first-innings lead of 125 runs.

Australia then reduced India to 105 for six at stumps. Pratika Rawal (43 batting) and Sneh Rana (14 batting) ensured the game went to the third day.

India still trail by 20 runs as Sutherland claimed the crucial wickets of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues.

But Sutherland first pegged India back with the bat, getting a hundred off 133 balls through a swipe off Kranti Gaud's short-pitched ball that flew over wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh for a four.

The right-hander, who averages close to 90 across eight Tests, was at her best against pacers and spinners alike.

She was imperious against spin of Deepti Sharma, driving gloriously between cover and mid-off region, and when Kranti pitched it up to her, the 24-year-old clattered the bowler through mid-wicket for a boundary.

On a roll: Sutherland scored her third Test century in as many innings and fourth overall. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
198 in 62.4 overs.

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
Georgia Voll b Sayali 2 *(8b)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Jemimah b Kranti 9 *(39b, 1x4)*, Ellyse Perry lbw b Deepti 76 *(116b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Alyssa Healy c Jemimah b Sayali 13 *(27b, 1x4)*, Annabel Sutherland c Harmanpreet b Deepti 129 *(171b, 17x4)*, Beth Mooney c Jemimah b Sneh 19 *(53b, 2x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner b Kranti 1 *(7b)*, Tahlia McGrath c Smriti b Shafali 13 *(32b, 1x4)*, Alana King c Sneh b Sayali 21 *(38b, 3x4)*, Lucy Hamilton c Sneh b Sayali 23 *(54b, 3x4)*, Darcie Brown (not out) 0 *(4b)*; Extras (b-6, lb-6, nb-5): 17; Total (in 90.4 overs): 323.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Voll, 2.2 overs), 2-31 (Litchfield, 11.6), 3-58 (Healy, 19.3), 4-186 (Perry, 47.3), 5-240 (Mooney, 62.5), 6-241 (Gardner, 63.6), 7-273 (Sutherland, 72.6), 8-277 (McGrath, 75.2), 9-311 (King, 88.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Sayali 18.4-2-50-4, Kranti 22-5-72-2, Kashvee 11-1-46-0, Sneh 17-1-64-1, Deepti 17-1-67-2, Shafali 5-2-12-1.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Smriti Mandhana b Brown 2 *(2b)*, Shafali Verma c Mooney b Hamilton 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Pratika Rawal (batting) 43 *(84b, 6x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Mooney b Sutherland 14 *(15b, 3x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Hamilton b Sutherland 11 *(19b, 2x4)*, Deepti Sharma b Hamilton 9 *(30b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Mooney b Hamilton 0 *(2b)*, Sneh Rana (batting) 14 *(17b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-3, lb-3, w-1): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 29 overs): 105.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Smriti, 0.2), 2-10 (Shafali, 1.6), 3-38 (Jemimah, 7.6), 4-64 (Harmanpreet, 13.6), 5-82 (Deepti, 23.2), 6-82 (Richa, 23.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Brown 9-1-37-1, Hamilton 8-1-32-3, Sutherland 6-2-15-2, McGrath 6-1-15-0.

It was a fine exhibition of batting mechanics, merging power and timing with her ability to watch the ball closely.

Sutherland was engaged in two vital alliances after Australia started the second day at 96 for three.

Veteran Ellyse Perry (76) gave Sutherland solid company during their 128-run stand for the fourth wicket.

It came to and end when Deepti trapped Perry in front of the wicket.

But Sutherland and a scratchy Beth Mooney, who was dropped twice in as many balls even before opening her account, added 54 runs for the fifth wicket to keep Australia in front.

However, Sutherland's dismissal opened the door for India. She tried to loft Deepti over long-on but could not go past Harmanpreet.

Alana King and Lucy Hamilton made useful 20s to take the home side past the 300-run mark, as Australia's first-innings lead swelled over 100.

India did not fare any better when it returned to the field for their second innings, failing to stitch any meaningful partnership.

From the moment Smriti Mandhana dragged pacer Darcie Brown onto her stumps, India never looked a settled unit.

But the dismissal of Jemimah will haunt her and the team the most.

The effervescent right-hander inexplicably tried to scoop Sutherland but could only manage a simple catch to wicketkeeper Mooney.

Left-arm pacer Lucy Hamilton then jettisoned Deepti and Richa in the 24th over as India slumped to 82 for six.

LIVE TELECAST

Formula One: Australian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

Australia Women vs India Women: One-off Test, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 10.50 a.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Men's T20 World Cup (final): India vs New Zealand, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.

I-League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

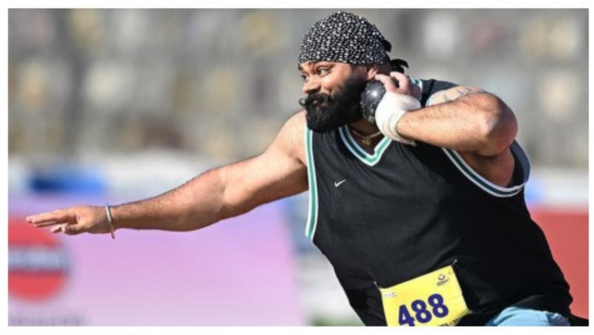
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Toor's season's best lands him the shot put gold

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor inched closer to regaining his form, as he prepares to complete a hat-trick and defend his Asian Games title, winning the fifth Indian Open Throws competition on the first day of the two-day event in Patiala on Saturday. The 31-year-old managed a season's best of 20.51m to win gold. He was the only competitor to cross the 20m mark – thrice in six attempts. The remaining three were no marks.



A cut above the rest: Toor was the only competitor to cross the 20m mark. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

The results: Men: Shot Put: 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun, 20.51m), 2. Karanveer Singh (Pun, 19.36m), 3. Sanyam (Har, 18.28m). **Hammer:** 1. Damneet Singh (Rel, 70.64m), 2. Ashish Jakhar (Army, 68.09m), 3. Devang (RSPB, 63.27m). **Under-20: Hammer:** 1. Aman (Har, 64.49m), 2. Abdul Rahaman (MP, 63.35m), 3. Shubham M. (Har, 63.00m). **Shot Put:** 1. Ommkar Prasad Nand (Odi, 17.85m), 2. Harshit Gahlot (Har, 17.02m), 3. Yash Chhikara (Del, 17.01m). **Under-18: Shot Put:** 1. Nishchay (Har, 19.78m), 2. Yuvraj Singh (Raj, 17.83m), 3. Nitish Kumar (Har, 17.83m). **Women: Discus:** 1. Seema (NCOE, 57.78m), 2. Priya (Har, 56.16m), 3. Sanya Yadav (Har, 52.80m). **Javelin:** 1. Sanjana Choudhary (NCOE, 54.20m), 2. Deepika (JSW, 52.88m), 3. Jyoti (JSW, 52.16m). **Hammer:** 1. Tanya Chaudhary (UP, 61.09m), 2. Divya Shandilya (Odi, 53.31m), 3. Soniya (Raj, 52.29m). **Shot Put:** 1. Yogita (Har, 16.44m), 2. Shiksha (Rel, 16.30m), 3. Rekha (NCOE, 15.57m). **Under-20: Hammer:** 1. Khushi (Har, 49.45m), 2. Ankita Mohapatra (Odi, 45.49m), 3. Ayeesha Banu (AP, 45.37m). **Discus:** 1. Nikita Kumari (Raj, 51.78m), 2. Amanat Kamboj (Pun, 51.13m), 3. Supriya Aatri (NCOE, 50.09m). **Shot Put:** 1. Pooja Kumari (NCOE, 15.04m), 2. Anupriya V.S. (Ker, 14.69m), 3. Munesh (BSF, 13.04m). **Under-18: Discus:** 1. Oshin (Rel, 43.61m), 2. Sona Mohan T. (Ker, 39.55m), 3. Maninder Kaur (Chd, 39.28m). **Shot Put:** 1. M. Sanjana Reddy (Kar, 15.30m), 2. Aarti (Har, 13.22m).

INBRIEF

SBI unveils $500-mn facility for women's empowerment

Country's leading lender SBI on Saturday introduced a $500 million syndicated social term loan facility, focused exclusively on women's empowerment, with a greenshoe option, on the eve of International Women's Day. This transaction is a milestone for SBI and the global ESG financing landscape for the noble cause of women's empowerment, the bank said in a statement. This financing is focused on accelerating social impact, said SBI. PTI

Peak power demand to touch 270 GW this summer: Naik

The peak power demand is projected to be about 270 GW this summer and there will no effect on regular electricity supply due to West Asia crisis, Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik. Ministry of Power projected 277 GW peak power demand during last summer (April 2025 onwards). As per government data, the peak power demand met or the highest supply last month rose slightly to 243.15 GW from 238.06 GW recorded in February 2025. PTI

Govt. announces standards for green ammonia, methanol

The government announced standards for green ammonia and green methanol for India to boost trade of green hydrogen derivatives under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The mission, with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore, aims at making India a global hub for production, utilisation and export of green hydrogen and it's derivatives. The standards outline the emission thresholds and eligibility norms for ammonia and methanol to be classified as 'green'. PTI

On backlash, Govt. pulls back revised earthquake zoning

Government departments, Metro Rail corporations and infrastructure authorities apprehended a surge in construction costs of marquee projects nationwide on implementation of the new norm

Kunal Shankar
CHENNAI

Less than four months after issuing a revision to India's earthquake zoning framework, the Centre has withdrawn its own notification following a major backlash from several government departments, Metro Rail corporations and infrastructure authorities that apprehended a surge in construction costs of marquee projects nationwide *The Hindu* has learnt.

On the edge: Several under-construction developments could risk turning into 'stranded assets' if costs escalated. AP

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had issued a Gazette notification on November 6, 2025, introducing revised earthquake hazard zoning under the updated IS 1893 (Part 1): 2025 code, which governs the earthquake-resistant design of structures. The revised standard was meant to replace the existing IS 1893 (Part 1): 2016 framework that currently guides structural design norms across the country.

However, the revised notification has now been withdrawn through a fresh Gazette notification issued on March 3, 2026, restoring the earlier code with immediate effect.

The reversal follows strong objections from multiple government agencies, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), several Metro Rail corporations across northern India, the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and other infrastructure bodies that flagged the potential impact of the revised probabilistic seismic hazard assessment (PSHA) framework on construction costs.

The development also has major implications for India's buildings and construction sector, which had begun expressing concern over a potential spike in project costs. Developers had warned that the revised zoning framework could disrupt financing for ongoing projects, with some suggesting that several under-construction high-rise developments could risk turning into 'stranded assets' if costs escalated sharply.

The BIS notification issued in November last year significantly revised India's seismic risk framework by incorporating updated PSHA-based modelling and new hazard parameters. Under the proposed classification, more than 60% of India's landmass would fall under moderate to high earthquake risk zones, representing a major shift in the country's seismic hazard mapping.

A notable change in the revised framework was the introduction of a new highest-risk Zone VI, bringing parts of Kashmir, the North-East and the Kutch region of Gujarat under the most stringent seismic design standards. Several other regions across the Himalayan belt were categorised under Zone V, indicating very high seismic vulnerability.

Such changes would have required significant revisions in structural design standards for buildings and infrastructure projects, including stronger foundationss.

One of the strongest objections to the revised zoning framework came from MoHUA. In a February 2026 communication to the Cabinet Secretariat, the MoHUA flagged "certain technical and financial concerns" arising from the revision of IS 1893.

Huge financial impact

The MoHUA letter accessed by *The Hindu* said the proposed revision could have "materially significant financial implications for infrastructure and construction projects", particularly for large public works such as Metro Rail systems and urban infrastructure.

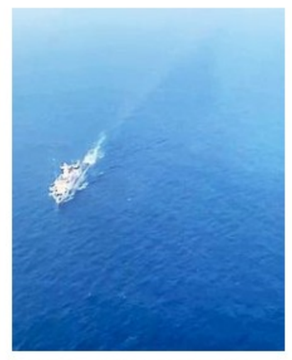
The NDSA also raised scientific objections to the revised hazard values when the draft was circulated in mid 2025.

"We reviewed the draft and felt the values were quite high," a senior NDSA official said. "The hazard value being suggested was much higher than what we were reading from our site investigations." Officials added higher hazard values would automatically translate into higher costs for infrastructure projects.

Technical discussions within government agencies also raised questions about the methodology used in the revised probabilistic seismic hazard assessment.

Navy may escort Persian Gulf ships

M. Kalyanaraman
Saptaparno Ghosh



A decision on deploying the Navy will be taken in 2 days.

The Indian government is considering deploying Indian Navy ships to escort ships stranded in the Persian Gulf, said a senior government official. Decision will be taken in two days, the source said.

Shipping industry sources estimate that some 10% of the oil tankers and gas carriers stranded in the Persian Gulf are Indian flagged. State-owned Shipping Corporation of India is among the major global ship owners whose ships amounting to more than 8 lakh tonne of cargo carrying capacity are among the stranded, as per data from Lloyds List Intelligence.

This would be equivalent to almost six million barrels of oil.

Stranded seafarers

The International Maritime Organization estimates almost 20,000 seafarers are onboard stranded ships. Given India is a major source of seafarers to global shipping, these seafarers would amount to several thousands.

The Indian Navy has conducted extensive operations defending merchant ships including those with Indian seafarers against Houthi attacks as well as Somalian pirates. Operation Sankalp, which was launched to ensure maritime security in the Gulf region, included action against Houthi rebels.

Meanwhile, Iran's promise to not attack neighbours in the Persian Gulf may give confidence for ships stuck there to move across the Strait of Hormuz and sail away, another highly placed source and decision maker in the government said.

"This [the Iranian affirmation] is definitely a positive," they stated, adding, "It provides increasing confidence [that] cargoes that may have been stuck on one side of the Strait of Hormuz will start moving. [This] would help the overall fuel dynamics as well."

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran will not target neighbouring countries unless they initiate an attack.

Further, according to the source, at present India has arranged for alternative supplies. Effectively, 70% of India's crude oil supplies are now being sourced in such a way they don't need to cross the Strait of Hormuz, the source said, adding there will be no rise in retail prices of petrol and diesel.

On Friday, Iranian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh told *The Hindu* Iran was not stopping Indian ships in the strait.

Ulsan in Thoothukudi: T.N.'s shipbuilding policy aims high

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Darez Ahamed, MD of Guidance Tamil Nadu, the State government's nodal investment promotion agency, often muses on the big picture of issues.

He opines every nation that shifts course to a high-growth path towards becoming fully developed takes up merchant shipbuilding. Shipbuilding moved from Europe to the U.S., then to Japan, followed by South Korea and China. These happened just as the nations became highly advanced.

"It's now India's turn. And Tamil Nadu is taking the lead," said Mr. Ahamed two days after the State unveiled its shipbuilding policy. Tamil Nadu's merchant shipbuilding policy contains a raft of measures for attracting investment and facilitating the building of modern shipyards.

A Special Purpose Vehicle, NSHIPTN, under SIPCOT with the Centre as a major stakeholder will develop infrastructure, enter joint ventures, lease assets, aid capital raising and so on. The State government can participate in equity (up to 49%) in shipyards or lease assets up to 20% of project cost. The government has promised support to a range of activities including setting up the supply chain, training and supplying the manpower, and housing for yard staff.

Guidance officials say a college dedicated to training engineers on shipbuilding as well as institutions for skilling on shipbuilding trades such as welding, erection and electric work will be started. It would also train seafarers.

World's finest: This file photo shows a ship being being built at Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in Ulsan. AFP

Two clusters are planned to come up: one in Thoothukudi and another in Cuddalore. More than 3,000 acre of land belonging to SIPCOT have been identified for the shipyard in Thoothukudi.

Two companies will construct and operate shipyards there. The government has already signed an MoU with Korean Hyundai, among the most advanced shipyard firms in the world, for Thoothukudi project. A public sector shipyard such as Cochin Shipyard or Mazagaon Docks may develop the other yard in Thoothukudi.

Advanced shipyard

Mr. Ahamed says the vision is to bring Ulsan to Thoothukudi. Ulsan is among the most advanced shipyards in the world and is operated by Hyundai.

Ulsan is a mini city that offers nearly every piece of shipyard operation: from design houses to manufacturing almost all the cutting edge components, says Girish Sehgal, marine chief engineer who has dealt with shipyards in Korea, China and Japan for nearly 15 years. "They have licences to manufacture all the state-of-the-art equipment too, the supply of which have lead times affecting ship delivery schedules," he says.

Tamil Nadu is India's most advanced manufacturing hub and this policy has come at an appropriate time, says Hrishikesh Narasimhan, who served as general manager and head of production at the L&T shipyard in Kattupalli and is now vice president at the Swan Defence shipyard in Pipavav. Mr. Narasimhan has a word of caution, though. He says project management is a weakness in India and while Hyundai's expertise in shipyard is proven, the whole project should be managed well enough to succeed.

In the last two decades, merchant shipbuilding had almost ground to a halt, but the Centre seems keen on ramping it up now. In Budget announcements and policy briefs, it had talked about setting up maritime clusters to support shipbuilding and announced incentives.

Merchant shipbuilding requires a humongous industrial ecosystem and draws upon a nation's deepest of resources, talents, skills and abilities. It requires industrial strength starting with manufacture and assembly of high-quality steels.

Guidance officials assure the State already has suppliers who can forge the ship grade steel to make the hull frames of ships. There is a plan to make the special grade steel for ships in the State.

Mr. Sehgal describes the operation of a top performing yard, saying they take only 15 months from steel cutting to the ship entering the water. "Yards work round-the-clock. At any point of time, there are some 2,000 people on a ship in China where the welding is done manually. In Korea, some 500 people work in a ship at any time since they use robotic welding. Shipyard work is an intense welding job along with painting, machinery installation and testing, safety system installation, as well as involved electrical work," he says, adding Hyundai would bring its own people initially and slowly hand over to Indians. "India's goal should be technology transfer," he adds.

The ecosystem of a yard functioning at its top capacity will need a township of several thousand employees. "An important reason for the state promoting shipbuilding is job creation. For every person working in a yard, the job creation is rate 6.5x," says Arun Roy, Secretary to the Industries Department, Tamil Nadu.

While yards in Korea and Japan reject some orders because of capacity issues, China tends to not pass up on orders so it stays the dominant force in shipbuilding. China today builds half of all merchant ships built in the world. "They give unbeatable 30% discounts straight off," says Mr. Sehgal.

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M BG-BGE

‘Pyramids’ of plastic in earth’s future, first study of its kind finds

Divya Gandhi

Plastic, that most indispensable, indestructible material, one of the protagonists of the Anthropocene epoch, could become a mountainous problem for the planet in 25 years.

If the production and management of plastic (or synthetic organic polymers) continues as it does today, as much as 12,000 million metric tonnes of this non-biodegradable waste – 2,000-times the mass of the Great Pyramid of Giza – will inundate landfills and the natural environment by 2050, scientists have said in a study in Science.

This is the first “end-of-life fate” of all plastic around the world ever manufactured to be calculated. The authors did so by collating data on the production, use, and management of polymer resins, synthetic fibres, and additives. They found that to date, some 8,300 million tonnes of new plastics have been produced, in turn generating over 6,300 million tonnes of plastic waste. Of this, only 9% has been recycled, 12% has been incinerated, and some 79% has lingered in landfills or the environment. Plastic production has grown faster than any other manufactured material in the last 65 years, per the study. The material went from comprising 1% of municipal solid waste in 1960 to more than 10% in 2005 in developed countries. “At the same time, global solid waste generation has grown steadily over the past five decades,” said the paper.

The scientists focused on the most prevalent resins and fibres, whose global production increased from 2 million tonnes in 1950 to a whopping 380 million tonnes in 2015. The total amount of resins and fibres made in 1950-2015 was 7,800 million tonnes. China was estimated to account for 28% of global resins and 68% of global acrylic fibre production.

“The only way to permanently eliminate plastic waste is by destructive thermal treatment,” the authors wrote. The highest rates of recycling in 2014 were in Europe (30%) and China (25%). In the U.S., plastic recycling has stayed at 9% since 2012.

The paper enumerated “three different fates for plastic waste”: recycling or reprocessing into a secondary material, although this only delays its disposal; destroyed by incineration, although this needs emission control technologies; and contained in sanitary landfills or left uncontained in the natural environment. A fourth is of course to lower plastic consumption.

Heat during pregnancy results in fewer male babies: study

Beyond birth ratios, research has linked rising heat to severe maternal health complications; researchers emphasise that many global health research agencies underestimate the impact on vulnerable populations

Ramya Kannan

When pregnant women experience higher ambient temperatures during gestation, fewer males are born, a recent analysis of demographic and health surveys in sub-Saharan Africa and India showed.

A paper titled ‘Temperature and sex ratios at birth’ in the journal *Demography*, by Jasmin Abdel Ghany et al., concludes after a detailed analysis that experiencing higher ambient temperatures during pregnancy is associated with changes in the natural sex ratio at birth across India and sub-Saharan Africa. The paper analyses over five million births drawn from more than 90 Demographic and Health Surveys, containing local temperature data to examine how heat exposure across trimesters shapes sex ratio at birth.

The researchers write: “We find that days with a maximum temperature above 20 °C are negatively associated with male births in both regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, we observe fewer male births after high first-trimester temperature exposure, consistent with increased spontaneous abortions from maternal heat stress... By contrast, in India, we find that second-trimester temperature exposure is associated with fewer male births.” These reductions are focused among older mothers in rural areas who have had a number of children, the study highlights.

The daily maximum temperature in the month of birth is 30.0 °C in sub-Saharan Africa and 30.3 °C in India. In India, in the second trimester, the results indicate a negative relationship between temperature exposure and birth sex. The effect of a 25 to 30 °C indicates a lower male birth probability by 0.014 percentage points.

To account for both biophysical health and behavioural mechanisms, researchers chose two regions with vastly different experiences with son preference and sex-selective abortion: India (where several regions have high son preference and sex selective abortions) and sub-Saharan Africa (where there is little evidence of son preference and sex-selective abortions are minimal). The hypothesis is that these heat-induced pregnancy losses are male-biased, in line with Trivers and Willard’s “frail male” hypothesis. “According to this evolutionary argument, weak males may have a lower chance of surviving to birth under poor environmental conditions. After birth, males have lower survival probabilities than females and thus require greater maternal investment, the authors write.

Vidhya Venugopal, Country Director (NIHR GHRC NCD-EC), Faculty of Public Health, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, says the results are not unexpected. They underline the urgency to examine solutions to protect vulnerable groups when temperatures soar.

“When your body temperature rises by one or two degrees above the basal temperature, it is a fever. Pregnant women already have a higher body temperature and if there are rising heat situations, there will certainly be a cascade of negative impacts... In pregnant women, there is a definite increase in adverse events, including hypertension, gestational diabetes, and preterm births; the risk of underweight babies increases,” she explains.

While heat is considered ‘extremely natural in tropical countries’, the impact of heat stress, particularly on people who live in resource-poor settings, is grossly underestimated, Dr. Vidhya says.

Jane Hirst, Chair in Global Women’s Health, The George Institute for Global Health, Imperial College London, agrees. “Most of the evidence associating that risk is not from the hottest, or the low and middle income countries, she adds. That is slowly changing,” she says. Evidence is now emerging from these nations also, indicating the risks might actually be greater. “For instance, the combined global evidence points to a 25 % increase in pre-term births with heat stress. Our study in Tamil Nadu, however, indicated that it was three times the risk, nearly 300%.” There is a huge role for governments to play here, Dr. Vidhya and Prof. Jane agree. Both of them see communicating risk to the vulnerable populations as a key step, as risk perception is very low, and thereby, the capacity to intervene as well. Protecting vanishing traditional knowledge systems that allow for resource-appropriate cooling mechanisms, including the diet, is also important, Dr. Vidhya says.

Structural changes must also be initiated according to Prof. Jane – make sure the antenatal clinic is located inside a well-ventilated building, or safe drinking water is available to help them cool off. “The Indian government has taken the lead in putting together heat action plans, at the regional and sub-regional levels. However, a third of them did not consider pregnant and lactating women and infants as a vulnerable group,” she points out. While ensuring that there is sufficient funding and resources for climate engineering, Prof. Jane says it is important to learn from the best practices. The SMART Health Pregnancy trial, currently under way in two Indian States has been looking at providing early warning signals to AASHA workers on weather events: “This has shown acceptability and is also to be expanded across seven other countries.”

Turning carrot waste into edible material again

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

As the global population increases, the need for more sustainable and nutritious food sources becomes greater. In this context, the book *Biomass Conversion and Sustainable Biorefinery,* edited by Lubis et al. in 2024, highlights recent advances in using wasted biomass from conversion and biorefinery concepts and discusses how biomass waste and by-products can be minimised by systematic reuse. The World Health Organization has pointed out that as populations grow, it is important to find ways to convert the wasted biomass into edible products.

We use a variety of vegetables, eggs, and meat in our meals and discard the inedible parts as waste. One such vegetable we use is carrots, and while doing so, we discard its skin and bits of its head and bottom (i.e., the crown and the root tip). We also use parts of carrots to prepare sweets, where again we waste small portions as leftovers or for being inedible. An article by Gagan J. Kaur et al., titled ‘Assessment of Carrot Rejects and Wastes for Food Product and as a Biofuel’ and published in the aforementioned book, discusses this issue in detail.

It is in the same context that a paper published in December 2025 in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* (doi:10.1021/acs.jafc.5c11223), by an international group of authors, led by Martin Gand of the Institute of Food Chemistry at Giessen University in Germany, proposes the use of fungi to utilise carrot waste.

As human populations grow, it is important to find ways to convert wasted biomass into edible products. NICK FEWINGS/UNSPLASH

Fungi (the plural of fungus) are a diverse kingdom of life, distinct from plants and animals, primarily due to their unique strategies for acquiring nutrients.

Specifically, unlike plants, fungi do not perform photosynthesis. They also do not have roots with which they can grow. Instead they obtain food from external sources, but unlike animals, fungi do not ingest their food before digesting it. Instead, they release powerful enzymes into their environment to break down organic matter and then absorb the resulting nutrients from their surroundings using mycelia, a root-like structure of fungi that forms a thread-like network.

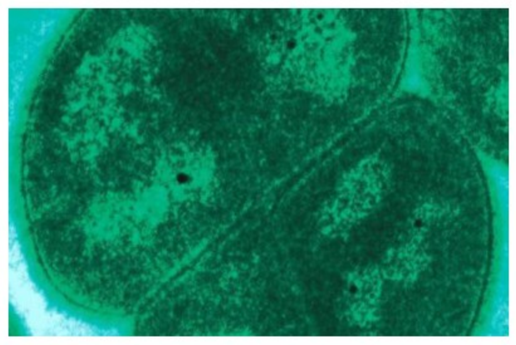
Their specialised method of eating allows them to thrive in various environments and underpins their ecological roles. They also have the remarkable ability to break down almost every organic material, including food wastes that are not digested by us.

A common example of a fungus is a mushroom, which is used to make soups, curry, pasta, and pizzas. And it is totally vegetarian and rich in vitamins and antioxidants. Mushrooms are fungi that grow using the available external material, which includes food waste. We also use mushrooms frequently in our diets, particularly when advised by nutritionists. The December 2025 study group tested more than 100 types of mushrooms from various countries and found them remarkably efficient at clearing off indigestible wastes. The researchers focused on waste that is discarded from carrots, and how fungi digest them and produce edible material. For instance, the team subsequently turned the mycelia of pink oyster mushrooms that had grown on carrot waste into “vegan patties” that could replace soy in some recipes.

While many of us use carrots in our diets (including in curries, salads, as crunchy snacks, and in sweets), chefs and dieticians advise that we need to use more mushrooms in these preparations for their health benefits. Our future food security may well depend on the transformation of food waste into high-quality proteins and vitamins by fungi.

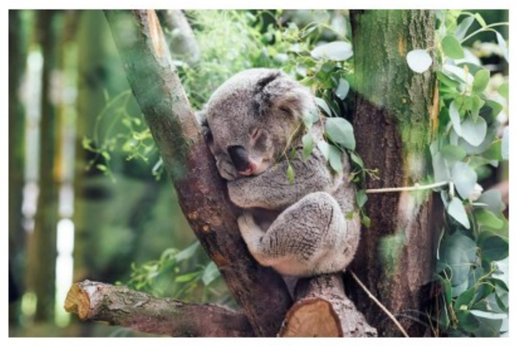
dbala@lvpei.org

SNAPSHOTS



Supertough bug may also survive colliding worlds

The bacteria *Deinococcus radiodurans* is famous for being able to survive extreme radiation and dryness. Researchers have found it can also survive the intense pressures of being blasted off a planet’s surface: 14,000-24,000 earth atmospheres. Genetic analysis revealed the survivors focused on DNA repair and iron transport to recover from the trauma. The findings support the idea that life could travel between planets inside ejected rocks, potentially expanding our search for extraterrestrial life.



Koalas beat evolutionary ‘doom’ with rapid expansion

Australia’s Victorian koalas are surmounting their genetic bottleneck, scientists have found, thanks to rapid population growth. The expansion has reshuffled their DNA, fostering new mutations to help the species adapt. However, populations in Queensland and New South Wales continue to decline, carrying heavier mutational loads of harmful variants. The finding means rapid expansion can restore a species’ evolutionary potential and that genetic bottlenecks aren’t necessarily an evolutionary dead-end.

Two biomarkers point to swab test for schizophrenia

Researchers have found two biological markers for schizophrenia that can be collected with a cheek swab. Their study wrote that patients with schizophrenia have significantly higher levels of Sp4 mRNA and HSP60, a protein, in their mouth cells compared to healthy individuals. More Sp4 correlated with more severe symptoms and poorer memory while more HSP60 predicted slower reaction times. They could offer a painless alternative to invasive tests.

Question Corner

Simulated reality

Why do some people believe the whole universe is a simulation?

In half a century, video games have gone from dots on a screen to lifelike 3D worlds. Believers argue that in future, we’ll eventually create simulations indistinguishable from reality. If an advanced civilisation creates millions of such simulations, simulated ‘people’ could far outnumber real people. Extrapolating from there, if there are a million ‘fake universes’ and only one real one, it’s statistically more likely that we’re in a fake one. There are many problems with the idea. It doesn’t explain the origins of reality, only abstracts it back one level. Second, our universe alone being real is simpler than our universe being simulated by a parent universe (Occam’s razor). The best computers also struggle to simulate hundreds of atoms at the quantum level; simulating a universe could demand more energy than what the universe itself holds. One condition for a scientific theory to be valid is it must be falsifiable: you can test it and potentially prove it wrong with an experiment. The simulation idea isn’t falsifiable.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What is the state of the environment in India?

What does the Centre for Science and Environment's report for 2025 say about pressing challenges?

Nikhil M. Babu

The story so far:

On February 25, the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the 'State of India's Environment 2026', a report that the research and advocacy non-profit has been publishing since 1982. The report gives a bird's-eye view of the environmental challenges the country faces, ranging from floods, extreme weather events, changes in tiger behaviour, and air pollution. It also gives a global perspective of climate change and connects it to the Indian context.

Are extreme weather events increasing?

The report says that in 2025, India experienced the highest rise in both the frequency and severity of extreme weather events over the past four years, including heatwaves, cold waves, heavy rainfall, and floods. Data from January 1 to November 30, 2025, show that such events were recorded on 99% of the days in 2025, resulting in 4,419 reported deaths and affecting at least 17.41 million hectares of crop area. This is a sharp rise from 2024, when extreme weather events occurred on 88% of days, causing 3,393 deaths and impacting 3.61 million ha of crop area. In 2023, 89% of days experienced such events, resulting in 3,208 deaths and 2.09 million ha of crop damage.

Himachal Pradesh was the worst hit by extreme weather events (267 days), followed by Kerala (173 days), and Madhya Pradesh (162 days).

In 20 States with tiger populations, around 40% of tiger territory overlaps with land home to 60 million people. Tiger populations inside reserve areas are at a saturation point.

Taken together, these trends signal a "widening ecological backlash and underscore the urgency of meaningful climate action. Without decisive efforts to cut risks and emissions, the disasters we face today risk becoming the norm tomorrow," the report said.

Are floods becoming more intense?

The report talks about how a warming climate will substantially increase the possibility of widespread floods. It says, "Climate change is not a distant possibility; it is already shaping our rivers, our cities, and our lives. Future resilience will depend on how quickly we can integrate climate science into everyday planning – from how we design culverts to how we allocate land along rivers." It says India's approach should move from post-disaster relief work to pre-disaster resilience. The report emphasises the need for nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, recharging groundwater, harvesting rainwater, and restoring and constructing lakes.

Is tiger behaviour changing?

The report notes that there is an increase in tigers killing humans. From January to June 2025, at least 43 people were killed near tiger reserves, with tigers consuming parts of their victims in four cases. In the same period in 2024, 44 people lost their lives to tiger attacks.

Tigers rarely turn into compulsive human-eaters, but tiger attacks and consumption of humans increase when the wild cats grow old or suffer from injuries and are unable to hunt for food, or when their natural prey base disappears. According to experts and wildlife observers, says the report, one of the reasons why tigers seem to be increasingly targeting humans is proximity of humans to tiger territory.

CSE notes that both the tiger population and the number of people living near forests are on the rise. In 20 States with tiger populations, around 40% of tiger territory overlaps with land home to 60 million people. Tiger populations inside reserve areas are at a saturation point. As a result, the big cats are venturing outside protected areas. Experts cited in the report attribute these behavioural changes to overcrowding, habitat loss, and human activity near tiger habitats.

Is India measuring air pollution properly?

As per CSE's analysis, only 15% of India's population (about 200 million people) live within 10 kilometres of a continuous air quality monitor. The remaining 85% (more than 1.2 billion people) breathe air that is outside any measurable range. Air quality monitoring remains concentrated in a limited set of large cities, primarily State capitals and metropolitan regions. "Entire districts, industrial belts and fast-growing peri-urban belts remain outside the monitoring grid. The result is a fragmented picture: a few zones with dense, overlapping data coverage and vast regions that appear blank," it says. This absence is not just a gap in information, but an example of structural inequality in India's environmental governance. Hundreds of smaller towns, many of which experience comparable or even higher levels of air pollution due to local industrial and transport activities, have no real-time data at all, according to the report.

Why does the Strait of Hormuz's closure matter?

Where is the Strait of Hormuz and what is its significance? Why have tensions in West Asia affected this passage? What does Iran have to do with the near-complete closure of the strait? How does the situation affect India and what is the government doing about it?

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important chokepoints, has been experiencing a near-total collapse in commercial traffic following rising tensions in West Asia. More than 20% of the world's total oil and gas shipments, and nearly 40% of India's, pass through the strait.

What is the significance of the strait?

The Strait of Hormuz, only 33 kilometres wide at its narrowest, lies between Iran, Oman, and the UAE. It is a vital route for oil and gas from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran leaving the Persian Gulf to various destinations.

Other important shipping chokepoints in the world include the natural Malacca Strait off Singapore through which almost the entire west-bound Chinese maritime trade takes place; the Bab-al-Mandab at the mouth of the Red Sea, which has come under Houthi influence; the artificial Suez Canal connecting Europe and Africa-Asia; the artificial Panama Canal linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans; and the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles connecting the Mediterranean and Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara, which are crucial not just for nations such as Romania but also for Russia.

While Egypt and Panama hold sovereignty over the Suez and Panama canals, respectively, Turkey has exclusive sovereign rights over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. Nations such as Malaysia and Singapore, and Iran and Oman play a major role in securing the natural straits (Malacca and Hormuz) while not holding sovereignty over them. India has been building naval presence in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the strategic aim of gaining leverage over Chinese trade across the Malacca Strait.

Some 40% of India's oil flows through the strait

At sea: Tankers are seen off the coast of Fujairah, as Iran vows to fire on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz, in the UAE. REUTERS

What is the current situation?

Since February 28, when the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran, and Iran retaliated, ship traffic across the strait has reduced by some 95%. Nine ships have faced attacks in or near the strait. Shipping is a high-risk business and even small damages can prove costly to repair. Lloyds List Intelligence, a maritime information provider, estimates that some 600 ships are now stranded in the region. Some 250 are bulk carriers carrying loose cargo such as coal, ores, and grain. Others include some 200 oil tankers and 50 gas carriers.

Can countries just halt shipping lanes?

International law generally treats the seas as commons. Though territorial waters and exclusive economic zones are recognised, in general, laws and practices tend to be favourable towards free usage of all of the seas by merchant ships, and by naval ships for "innocent" passage.

In the past, Egypt has shut down the Suez Canal. Panama has not shut down its canal. No country can order the shutdown of the Straits of Hormuz and Malacca as its sovereign right. However, lack of security, emanating from threats and attacks, can make shippers wary of making the passage due to fears of loss of life and property.

As a result, insurance costs can balloon. In the current situation, insurance premiums have climbed 10-15 times on a case-by-case basis depending, among other factors, on whether a ship is affiliated with any of the belligerent parties. A rough estimate suggests that purchasing insurance for just one week of a ship transiting the strait would cost nearly as much as what the owner would normally pay for a year.

Are there alternatives to this strait?

Saudi Arabia can transport fuels to its western ports on the Red Sea, such as Yanbu, through pipelines. However, ship traffic in the Red Sea plummeted when Houthi attacks started in 2023-24. In October 2023, for instance, there were around 2,300 ship transits across Bab-el-Mandab, the strait at the mouth of the Red Sea. By January, the number had dwindled to less than half of that. Since then, ship transits have only marginally gone up. Any attempt to leverage Red Sea ports may invite attacks from the Houthis, who are aligned to Iran.

How does closing the strait help Iran?

Iran has spoken in multiple voices over allowing ship passage. Currently, about one in five ships passing through the strait are Iranian. While those speaking for the Iranian government have said they would not like ship traffic to halt, agencies such as the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have threatened attacks. Iran hopes that closing the strait will force world opinion to bear upon Israel and the U.S. to end the conflict.

The strait is a leverage that Iran has historically exercised, such as during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. At the time, the U.S. allowed merchant ships registered in other nations to fly its flag. This provided legal sanction for the U.S. to deploy its Navy to escort merchant ship convoys across the strait.

India's response was unique then. Leveraging its neutrality and positive relationships in the region, the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) had its ships painted 'INDIA' in big, bold white letters against the black hull so that the ships would be visible and stand out as belonging to India. Although there were attacks on SCI ships, the move did succeed to a large extent.

This time too, the U.S. President has vowed to keep ship traffic flowing through the strait. He has talked about escorting ships to provide direct security and also help defray insurance costs. India has been in touch with U.S. authorities for securing maritime insurance cover from the International Development Finance Corporation. The proposal had come from the U.S. government, officials have said.

How does the situation affect India's economy and oil prices?

Some 40% of India's oil flows through the strait. Qatar supplies half of India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, which in turn provide half of the country's natural gas needs. Qatar shut down its LNG production when the conflict began. While LNG is regasified to supply city gas uses such as for cooking, power plants and other industrial uses, about 30% of India's natural gas is directed towards fertilizer production. Though this is the off season for fertilizers, the situation may not recover fast enough when ammonia fertilizer demand picks up later this year. The government is actively pursuing other LNG sources, such as the U.S., Russia, and Australia.

Some 60% of India's Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG), which is mostly a mixture of propane and butane, comes from imports largely upstream of the strait. A shortage of LPG, the dominant cooking gas in India, is far more worrying. The government has come up with a series of measures, such as tweaking the oil refining process to produce more of propane-butane and prioritising cooking gas use of propane-butane.

The U.S. has given the green light for India's purchase of Russian crude for 30 days, which is a relief. India has built supply networks with Russia and these will come in handy. Overall, Brent crude price has been hovering below $90 (it shot past $125 when Russia attacked Ukraine). In a reflection of the turn towards Russian oil, high sulphur Urals oil (from Russia) is now costlier than Brent oil in India. Increase in global crude prices may force the Indian government to increase administered price hikes in petrol and other fuels for transport and other uses, leading to a spiralling effect on the economy.

How does Canada's uranium deal help India?

What uranium 'stocks' does India have? Does the latest deal involve the 2010 India-Canada Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement? How does India use its uranium? How is the country's nuclear power programme faring?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In its quest for energy security, on March 2, India signed a Canadian $2.6-billion deal with Cameco. The Canadian company is among the world's top three largest uranium producers by volume. The deal ensures a supply of around 10,000 tonnes of uranium between 2027 and 2035 to India.

What uranium 'stocks' does India have?

India has both domestic reserves and imported stockpiles of uranium. The domestic reserves amount to 4.2-4.3 lakh tonnes of ore, spread across the major mines of Jaduguda and Turamdih in Jharkhand and Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh. The quantum of extractable uranium metal from the ore is estimated to be 76,000-92,000 tonnes.

The order of magnitude difference between the ore and the metal is because Indian ore is 'low grade' (0.02-0.45% concentration). On the other hand, Canada has high-grade ore (10-100 times richer than Indian ore).

India has increasingly relied on imports, which currently meet nearly three-fourths of the civilian requirement. Aside from the Cameco deal, India also finalised a supply agreement with Kazatomprom of Kazakhstan in February, and has ongoing contracts with Uzbekistan and Russia (both with low-grade ore). The government is also building a reserve intended to hold five years' supply of fuel to protect against supply chain shocks. While importing uranium ore is cheaper than extracting it, it cannot legally be used in nuclear weapons. This is why India also mines ore domestically.

Indian ore is low-grade (0.02–0.45%), while Canadian ore is 10 to 100 times richer

Striking a deal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi. ANI

Does the deal involve the 2010 agreement?

The deal with Cameco comes under the India-Canada Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA). This was signed in 2010, two years after the Nuclear Suppliers Group issued its 'clean' waiver for India, allowing it to engage in civil nuclear trade despite not signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The waiver, in turn, was made possible by the 123 nuclear agreement between India and the U.S.

Unlike the deal with Kazakhstan (which is less intrusive), the NCA requires India to provide "fissionable material accounts" to Canada, which critics have often called a slight against Indian sovereignty. On the flip side, the NCA has also been criticised for tacitly supporting India's nuclear weapons programme: the more uranium India imports for civilian use, the more domestic uranium it can vouchsafe for military use.

How does India use its uranium?

India currently operates 24 nuclear reactors with a generation capacity of around 9 GW. The 700-MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) that currently provide 6-7 GW, or roughly 3%, of India's total electricity use uranium as fuel. The government is committed to increasing nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047. Previous attempts to up this contribution have been set back by issues with land acquisition and local protests, however.

Significant amounts of uranium are also used in research reactors, such as Dhruva in Trombay, to produce medical isotopes such as technetium-99m and iodine-131 and for advanced materials science research.

In the 2025-26 Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹20,000 crore to develop a new generation of small modular reactors, which typically use 3-5% enriched uranium.

Domestic uranium is also used for nuclear warheads (currently estimated to number around 170) and the nuclear-powered *INS Arihant* class submarines.

How is India's nuclear power programme faring?

India is currently transitioning from Stage 1 to 2 of the three-stage programme. In Stage 1, PHWRs will use natural uranium-235 to produce electricity and plutonium-239 as a byproduct. In Stage 2, fast breeder reactors will use a mixed oxide fuel of uranium-238 and plutonium-239 to produce electricity, uranium-233, and more plutonium-239. (The reactors are called so because they will produce more fuel than they consume.) The prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam is currently in an advanced stage of commissioning. Finally, advanced heavy water reactors will use plutonium-239 and thorium-232 as fuel, producing electricity and uranium-233. Homi J. Bhabha envisioned this three-stage programme to take advantage of the fact that India hosts 20-25% of the world's thorium deposits.

However, the programme has been beset by numerous delays and cost overruns. The fast breeder test reactor was built at Kalpakkam in 1977 but the government did not sign off on the PFBR until the early 2000s, thanks in part to sanctions against India over its nuclear tests. The PFBR's cost also nearly doubled from ₹3,492 crore at the time it was designed to more than ₹6,800 crore in 2019.

In March 2013, the Department of Atomic Energy had said in a reply in the Lok Sabha, "The time of large-scale thorium deployment is expected to be 3-4 decades after the commercial operation of fast breeder reactors with short doubling time." Given the PFBR's own timeline, this period could be in the 2060s, if not later.

Former Department of Atomic Energy Chairman Anil Kakodkar has explained that the doubling time – the time taken for one fast breeder reactor to produce enough fuel to start a second – is 15-20 years. To generate 100 GW, then, India has to go through several doubling cycles, which could explain the multiple deals now to secure the supply of uranium.

The philosopher who seeks vengeance

Ali Larijani

The Secretary of Iran's Security Council, who has emerged as a voice of the country's defiance in the time of war, says Tehran will not talk to the U.S. and will deliver 'an unforgettable lesson to international oppressors'

Stanly Johny

On March 1, a day after the U.S. and Israel started bombing Iran, Donald Trump said in an interview that the Iranian leaders wanted to resume negotiations. "I have agreed to talk," he said. A response came swiftly from Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. "We will not negotiate with the Americans," he wrote in a social media post.

"You have set ablaze the hearts of the Iranian people," he said in an interview, referring to the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader. "We will burn the hearts of our enemies."

In the days that followed, the U.S. and Israel pounded Iran. Mr. Trump asked the Iranians to take over state institutions. It did not happen. Iran retaliated by launching missiles at American bases in the Persian Gulf, and Israel. On March 6, both President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran was not immediately seeking a ceasefire. Mr. Trump then demanded "an unconditional surrender".

As the war unfolds with regional implications, Mr. Larijani has emerged as a defiant face and voice of the Islamic Republic. The Security Council he leads is one of the most important institutions of the state, especially during wartime. Founded in 1989 under the revised Constitution, the Council's main responsibility is to define defence and national security policies. The secretary of the Security Council is roughly the equivalent of the National Security Adviser of India.

Mr. Larijani came of age during the tremulous years of pre-revolutionary Iran. His father, Grand Ayatollah Hashem Amoli, a renowned Shia cleric, fled to Iraq in the 1930s to avoid persecution under the Shah. Ali Larijani was born in Najaf, the central Iraqi city that hosts the tomb of Imam Ali, in 1958. The Larijanis moved back to Iran in 1960. Ali Larijani studied in a religious seminary in Qom and got a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Aryamehr University of Technology, Tehran. For his Master's and Ph.D., he switched to Western philosophy. According to a profile of Mr. Larijani on the University of Tehran website, he has published three books on Immanuel Kant (all in Farsi) – *The Mathematical Method in Kant's Philosophy*, *Metaphysics and the Exact Sciences in Kant's Philosophy*, and *Intuition and Synthetic A Priori Judgments in Kant's Philosophy*. He has written a book on Descartes's *Discourse on the Method*. He has additionally written about Saul Kripke – the American philosopher of language and modal logic – and David Lewis, the analytical metaphysician.

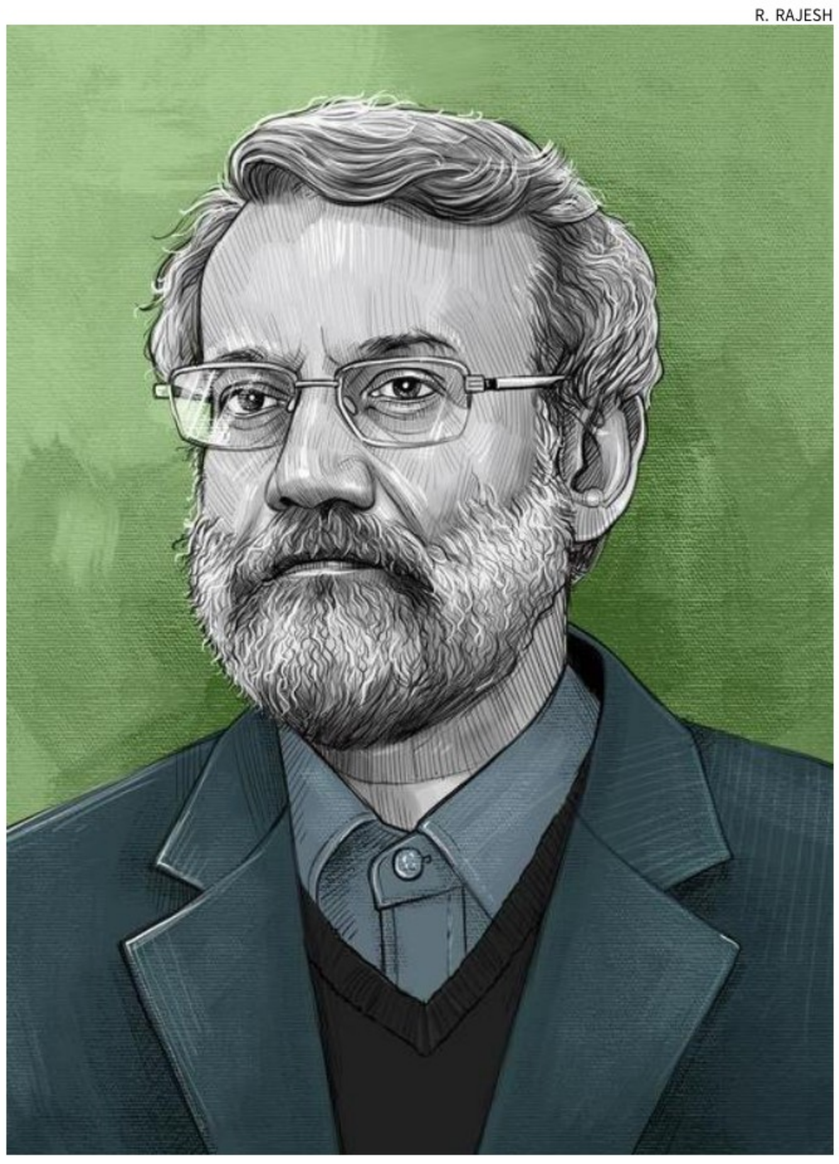
A member of the elite

But in Iran, the philosopher found refuge in revolution. Like many of his peers who were inspired by the 1979 revolution, Mr. Larijani joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the paramilitary organisation founded by Ayatollah Khomeini soon after the Shah was toppled.

For Mr. Larijani, the years with the IRGC became the foundation of a long career in Iran's security and political establishment. During the administration of President Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989-97), he was appointed Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance. In 1994, he became the Director-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), an arm of the Office of the Supreme Leader. This role brought him closer to the Leader (*Rahbar*), Ayatollah Khamenei. That was the beginning of a long relationship between the Imam and the philosopher. By the turn of the century, Mr. Larijani had become one of the key figures of the elite of the Republic.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the conservative politician who became President in 2005, appointed Mr. Larijani head of the Security Council and chief nuclear negotiator. As a nuclear negotiator, he sent mixed signals. He once likened European incentives to abandon Iran's nuclear programme to "exchanging a pearl for a candy bar". But the same Mr. Larijani quit the Security Council in 2007 amid disagreements with Mr. Ahmadinejad, whose hardline policies had deepened Iran's global isolation. It was a rare

R. RAJESH



public rupture in the conservative camp. After falling out with Mr. Ahmadinejad, Mr. Larijani moved to parliamentary politics. In 2008, he got elected to the Majles and became Speaker, a position he would hold till 2020. When Hassan Rouhani pursued nuclear talks with the U.S. and signed a deal in 2015, Mr. Larijani, as Speaker, provided the much-needed legislative support for the President. When the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal, was put to debate in the Majles, Mr. Larijani gave just 20 minutes to discuss it for Parliament's 290 members, before pushing it through.

In domestic politics, he has been associated with the principalist (hardline) camp. He was supported by the Islamic Society of Engineers, a principalist political organisation. In 2005, when he stood for the presidential elections for the first time, his bid was supported by the Council for Coordination of the Forces of the Revolution, an umbrella group of conservative organisations. He finished sixth, winning only 5.94% of the votes, but became the Security Council Secretary. In 2021 and 2024, he registered for the presidential election, but his nomination was rejected by the powerful Guardian Council. But Masoud Pezeshkian, who won the 2024 presidential election, brought Mr. Larijani back as the Security Council Secretary.

Security czar

For years, Iran had built a sprawling network of allies in West Asia both as a deterrent and as an offensive strategy. The champion of this forward defence was Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force General who was assassinated by the U.S. in January 2020. That was a big blow to Iran. When Gen. Soleimani was killed, Mr. Larijani warned that the killing would alter the political balance of the region. "The response to Haj Qassem Soleimani's blood should be measures to make American forces flee from the region," he said, according to *Tehran Times*.

In April 2025, amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran, Mr. Larijani said if attacked, Iran would have "no choice" but to get nuclear weapons. "We are not moving towards nuclear weapons, but if you do something wrong in the Iranian nuclear issue, you will force Iran to move towards that because it has to defend itself," he said. Two months later, Israel started bombing Iran, triggering the 12-day war. The U.S. joined Israel on June 22 in bombing Iran's nuclear facilities.

In June, Mr. Trump declared victory, but the crisis was far from over. Mr. Larijani endorsed the nuclear talks that opened in January 2026 following protests in Iran. The U.S. and Iran held three rounds of talks. On February 27, Oman's Foreign Minister who was mediating the talks, said a deal was within reach. Within hours the U.S. and Israel launched the war.

Amid war and a political vacuum, a furious Iran responded with its drones and ballistic missiles. "The brave soldiers and the great nation of Iran will deliver an unforgettable lesson to the hellish international oppressors," Mr. Larijani said. Eight days into the war, Iran has been hit hard by the U.S. and Israel. Tehran has retaliated by escalating its attacks across the region. The IRGC, the revolutionary force where Mr. Larijani cut his teeth, has warned of a "prolonged war".

THE GIST

- During the administration of President Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989-97), Ali Larijani was appointed Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance
- He contested the 2005 presidential election and finished sixth. But post-polls, he was appointed secretary of the Security Council
- He registered for presidential elections in 2021 and 2024, but was rejected by the Guardian Council. After the 2024 election, he was brought back to the Security Council

The bell strikes

Rastriya Swatantra Party

The party that campaigned on anti-corruption, anti-establishment platforms has emerged as the winner of Nepal's first post-protest election

Sanjeev Satgainya

Rabi Lamichhane was a television personality until a few years ago, known for his confrontational talk show *Sidha Kura Janata Sang* (Direct talk with the people), in which he frequently criticised politicians and highlighted public grievances.

Buoyed by his popularity, he launched a political experiment. In June 2022, he founded the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). He strategically included "Swatantra", meaning "independent", in the name to signal that the party was distinct from the established parties. The elections were just six months away.

When Nepal went to the polls in November that year, the RSP surprised everyone – it finished fourth. A key challenge for the RSP, however, was that despite being the fourth-largest party and enjoying public support, few saw it as a formidable force capable of challenging established parties. First, it lacked a clear ideology. Second, the party was synonymous with "Rabi" or "Ghanti" – the bell, the party's election symbol.

Many viewed its rise with scepticism, saying it was a fleeting success driven by public frustration with Nepal's old guard –

PTI

Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and CPN (Maoist Centre). Mr. Lamichhane's controversial moves as Minister – the RSP had joined the government twice between 2022 and 2024 – and his brushes with the law dented the party's image. He has been in and out of jail multiple times over charges of embezzling cooperative funds.

As it evolved, the party worked on its ideological clarity and now calls itself a pluralistic democratic party that espouses a liberal economy with social justice – centrist liberal in short. The party's views on the current federal structure remain unclear, with multiple leaders making different public statements about the form of governance. In July 2024, when the two biggest parties – the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML – joined hands to form a government, the RSP was pushed into a meek opposition.

Last September's Gen Z protests, which the RSP supported, did further damage. Some influential leaders deserted the party. Mr. Lamichhane faced allegations of escaping jail during the chaos on September 9, the second day of the protests. He, however, turned himself in. The protests, which claimed 77 lives – including 19 in police firing – toppled the K.P. Sharma Oli government, triggering election.

Anti-corruption mood

The RSP, which was almost on the verge of implosion, suddenly became the beneficiary of the protests against corruption and misrule – what the party claims as its own agenda – with public anger directed mostly against the Nepali Congress and the UML. In late December, then Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah, known as Balen, joined the RSP as the party's prime ministerial candidate.

In the run-up to the March 5 election, the RSP saw growing public support – many calling it a 'Balen effect'. The party, once synonymous with 'Rabi', became synonymous with either 'Balen' or 'Ghanti', resonating with a larger electorate, beyond party lines.

The four-year-old party, once criticised for lacking an ideology, has dealt a major blow to the established parties in the March 5 election. The RSP is set to secure a majority of 138 seats, with trends suggesting it could even reach a two-thirds majority of 184 in the 275-member House. As of now, the party has won 57 seats under the first-past-the-post system and is leading in 64 out of 165 constituencies. It is ahead under the proportional representation system, in which 110 members are elected, securing a 53% vote share.

Balen is set to defeat Mr. Oli by a huge margin. Gagan Thapa of the Nepali Congress is set to suffer a loss in Sarlahi-4, a constituency in the Madhesh plains, at the hands of an old Congress member now running on RSP ticket.

Chandan Goopta, a data analyst following the polls in Madhesh, says this time the election was about Balen versus the rest. "It's not Gagan vs Amaresh Singh [the RSP candidate], it's Gagan vs Balen," he said. "It's the same for all constituencies [in Madhesh]."

Hit to kill

THAAD

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defence, one of the most advanced missile defence platforms developed by the U.S., is being tested in the U.S.-Israel war against Iran

Saurabh Trivedi

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system is one of the most advanced missile defence platforms developed by the United States to counter ballistic missile threats.

Designed to intercept missiles during the final stage of their flight, THAAD can destroy incoming threats both inside and outside earth's atmosphere, providing a critical defensive layer against short-medium- and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles. The U.S. deployed additional THAAD batteries to the West Asian region before it launched the invasion of Iran on February 28, along with other weapons.

Unlike many traditional air defence systems that rely on explosive warheads, THAAD uses "hit-to-kill" technology. This means its interceptor missiles destroy incoming targets by directly colliding with them at extremely high speeds, relying on kinetic energy rather than an explosive blast.

This approach significantly improves precision and reduces the risk of debris from explosive interceptors affecting populated areas. THAAD can engage ballistic missile targets at ranges of roughly 150-200 kilometres, intercepting them at high altitude before they descend toward their intended targets.

REUTERS

Key components

The THAAD weapon system is a major element of the broader Ballistic Missile Defence System (BMDS) architecture and consists of several integrated components: interceptors that destroy incoming missiles through kinetic impact; truck-mounted launchers used to deploy the interceptors; and the powerful AN/TPY-2 radar, which detects and tracks missile threats at a long range; a tactical fire control and communications unit that coordinates targeting and engagement; and additional logistics and support equipment.

A typical THAAD battery includes around 90 personnel, six launchers, and 48 interceptors, with each launcher carrying eight missiles.

THAAD is designed to operate as part of a layered missile defence network. It can integrate with other systems such as the MIM-104 Patriot, including the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3), as well as the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defence system used by naval forces.

In recent tests, THAAD has demonstrated its ability to launch PAC-3 missile segment enhancement (MSE) interceptors, highlighting growing interoperability within the U.S. missile defence architecture.

The THAAD system is highly mobile and rapidly deployable, allowing the U.S. Army to position it in regions facing missile threats. The first operational THAAD battery was deployed to Guam in 2013. Internationally, the UAE became the first foreign buyer in 2011, followed later by Saudi Arabia.

The system has been in the spotlight ever since the latest war on Iran began on February 28. Iran has reportedly destroyed a key radar associated with the THAAD system used by the U.S. to detect and intercept ballistic missiles in West Asia, dealing a major blow to Washington's regional missile defence network as the war on Iran enters its second week, according to media reports.

Satellite imagery cited in the reports suggests that an AN/TPY-2 radar, valued at around $300 million and manufactured by RTX Corp., along with its support equipment, was destroyed at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan during the early days of the conflict. The radar plays a critical role in guiding U.S. missile defence batteries deployed across the Persian Gulf.

But despite such setbacks, THAAD remains a critical piece in America's defensive shield. Ballistic missiles travel at extremely high speed and high altitudes, leaving little time for defence once they approach their targets. Systems like THAAD are designed to intercept these threats far from population centres and critical infrastructure, increasing the chances of neutralising them before impact.

As missile technology continues to evolve, THAAD remains a key element of the U.S. strategy to build a multi-layered missile defence shield capable of countering a wide range of ballistic missile threats.